FBIS DAILY REPORT

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OFFICIALS COMMENT ON LEAK OF RATTENBACH REPORT

PY251320 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1333 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (DYN) -- Brigadier Carlos Alberto Rey, one of the Inter-Force Commission members who participated most actively in the determination of responsibilities for the Malvinas war, today said that the dissemination of the conclusions of the commission's report by a Buenos Aires magazine "is an extremely serious event because the report is a military and political secret."

While Rey thus referred to the disclosure made by the Buenos Aires weekly SIETE DIAS, the principal military commanders mentioned in the "Rattenbach report" refused to comment to the press. "I have quickly gone through the report published by the magazine, and I think that the report is the same one we submitted to the junta," the former Air Force commander in chief said regarding the magazine article.

In reply to a question, the member of the Inter-Force Commission headed by Lieutenant General Benjamin Rattenbach, retired, said that the dissemination of the report is "an extremely serious matter because it is a military and political secret." He added that "only 10 copies were made. Each member of the commission that drew up the report has one copy, another copy was submitted to the junta which in turn delivered it to the joint chiefs of staff, and each of the three commanders in chief also has one copy."

Rey said that "the copy that was delivered to the joint chiefs of staff was in turn remitted to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which is currently evaluating responsibilities for the war."

In reply to another question, Rey dismissed the possibility that the publication could be "a political or destabilizing maneuver." He said that it is rather "an individual maneuver seeking nothing but money."

For his part, former Malvinas Military Governor Mario Benjamin Menendez this morning told a maid who answered the phone at his home to say that "the general does not answer phone calls."

Something similar happened to an EFE correspondent who tried to call the homes of Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, retired, and Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya, retired, former commanders in chief of the Army and the Navy, respectively. The EFE correspondent was told that "the telephone numbers no longer belonged to them."

Meanwhile, Nicanor Costa Mendez, who served as foreign minister during the South Atlantic conflict, rejected the conclusions of the Inter-Force Commission as regards his personal responsibility for the conflict.

In reply to a question, the former head of San Martin Palace said that he did not know whether "the published document is authentic, but any way, I flatly reject the charges against me."

Costa Mendez added that the charges against me "are inaccurate, unjustified, arbitrary, and groundless, and they ignore the real circumstances in which we discharged our duties." He continued: "The charges were made 1 and 1/2 years after the conflict and without taking into account the actual options that the government had at that time."

In conclusion, Costa Mendez said that "our initial conduct and all the international meetings have not been appraised either. All I can say is that we defended, or we tried to defend, the honor of the Argentine people without seeking personal gain and with our best judgment."

BEAGLE CHANNEL MEDIATION ENVOY SEES 'PROGRESS'

PY230013 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Nov 83 p 11

[Text] Argentine representative to the Vatican, Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo, on his return from Rome, today briefed Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari on "the progress made with Chile on negotiations concerning the Beagle border conflict." Etcheverry Boneo denied foreign press reports that negotiations with Chile were paralyzed and said that talks held during the last four months have been the most productive. Later in the day, Aguirre Lanari confirmed that progress in negotiations with Chile over the territorial dispute had been made, speaking to reporters at the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said that an agreement with Chile may be reached before the end of the year. Etcheverry Boneo and Aguirre Lanari will possibly meet with future Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and President-elect Raul Alfonsin in the near future to brief them on the way negotiations are progressing in the near future once negotiation details are known.

One of Argentina's main demands in order to reach an agreement with Chile concerns the 'bioceanic principle' which states that Atlantic Ocean waters correspond exclusively to Argentina, while the Pacific Ocean belongs only to Chile. Files on the Beagle border conflict are being prepared to be handed over to the future democratic government, sources said.

IAEA HEAD TOURS PLANT, MEETS WITH ALFONSIN

PY251958 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (DYN) -- Hans Blix, head of the IAEA, has visited the Pilcaneyeu uranium enrichment plant in Rio Negro, according to a communique issued tonight by the press office of President-elect Raul Alfonsin.

After Blix's visit with Alfonsin at the Panamericano Hotel, the press office of the future Argentine president issued a note concerning their talks. The note says that Alfonsin "talked for approximately 45 minutes tonight with Mr Blix, whom he had met once in October 1980 in Stockholm when he was the Swedish deputy foreign minister."

The note then adds that "Mr Blix expressed his excellent impression of the Argentine experts' capatilities, an impression based on both his knowledge of the IAEA cooperation programs with Argentina and his visit to the Bariloche and Pilcaneyeu installations. Mr Blix is the first person not connected with the National Atomic Energy Commission to visit the uranium enrichment installation."

The note says that "Alfonsin appreciated Mr Blix's words of praise for the Argentine experts, and assured him that the Argentine nuclear program will keep its exclusively peaceful objectives, and that to that effect, the program will be submitted to appropriate institutional controls, as well as to his personal oversight, since the CNEA is directly subordinate to the Presidency."

The note says finally that "Mr Blix emphasized that the IAEA only acts upon requests from member countries to provide them with technical assistance in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and in the verification of bilateral or multilateral agreements signed by those countries."

Caputo on Nuclear Policy

PY232020 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1210 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (NA) -- Foreign Minister-designate Dante Caputo today reasserted that the Radical Civic Union [UCR] government will use nuclear energy "for strictly peaceful purposes." Dante Caputo made this statement minutes before entering the Hotel Panamericano, where he was to meet with president-elect Raul Alfonsin. Caputo said that "the Foreign Ministry is in complete agreement with the communique that was issued by the president-elect on this subject."

He also denied that future government officials have made a decision about the papal mediation. He said: "We will make the proper decisions when we assume our posts. Any information regarding the mediation process must be issued by the present government."

MNC SCORES BUSH'S PRESENCE AT INAUGURATION

PY260225 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1937 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Nov (DYN) -- The Nationalist Constitutional Movement (MNC) today declared U.S. Vice President George Bush "persona non grata." The MNC also criticized "the present and the future" Argentine authorities who are "boasting" of the U.S. Government official's presence at Raul Alfonsin's inauguration.

In a harsh declaration, the MNC recalled that when colonialism attacked the Argentine people in 1982 "to usurp the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands," the U.S. "support for the aggression was decisive and public." The MNC added that "Mr Bush was the U.S. vice president at the time of the aggression."

In view of this aggression, the MNC considered that contrary to what a "basic attitude of self-respect" would determine in these circumstances, "both the present and the future authorities are boasting of the U.S. vice president's presence at the 10 December ceremony" instead of asking the U.S. Government to send a "discreet" delegation.

The MNC labeled the remarks made by the current officials and their successors about "the importance given by the U.S. Government to the democratization of our country" as frivolous, saying that "they omit the fact that in international relations there are interests and very few principles." Therefore, the MNC believes that "the U.S. interests will continue to conflict with the Argentine interests whether or not a democracy is installed in our country," recalling in this regard that despite the fact that the head of the British Government, Margaret Thatcher, said that she was fighting against a dictatorship in the country, "now that Argentina is returning to its democratic path she insists that she will not negotiate the sovereignty of the usurped islands."

In conclusion, the MNC declared "Mr Bush persona non grata in Buenos Aires," recalling that "it does not forget that he represents the government of a country which was a coparticipant in an unjust, colonialist, and aggressive war against the nation in April 1982."

MRS PERON, FRONDIZI INVITED TO INAUGURATION

PY251937 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1900 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Nov (DYN) -- Presidential Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez this afternoon announced that President-elect Raul Alfonsin has formally invited former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron to his inaugural ceremony scheduled for 10 December. The future president's spokesman said that "a telegram was sent to Madrid at 1545, while at 1630 Interior Minister-designate Antonio Troccoli and Foreign Relations Minister-designate Dante Caputo will go to the house of former President Arturo Frondizi to extend to him "a similar invitation." Lopez noted that in doing this, Alfonsin is extending personal invitations to the only former Argentine constitutional presidents who are still alive.

Mrs Peron To Return 'Soon'

PY251715 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0211 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (TELAM) -- Mrs Maria Estela Martinez de Peron has made a public announcement on her intention to return to Argentina soon to join her efforts to those of her unforgettable and dear comrades. She urged them to uphold their unswerving loyalty to General Peron's ideals, which are a sure road for achieving grandeur and well-being.

The statement was made in a handwritten note bearing the former president's letterhead, read this morning by Pedro Arrighi, former education minister in the last Justicialist government, upon his return from Madrid along with Jujuy Province Senator-elect Jose Humberto Martiarena. During their talk with journalists at Ezeiza Airport, the two leaders reported on their meetings in Madrid with Mrs Peron, but they refrained from giving an exact date for her announced return.

The text of the message read by Arrighi is as follows: "After nearly 8 years of enforced silence and in view of the fact that the republican and democratic institutions, so dear to the Argentine citizenry, are soon to become fully effective, I am conveying my confidence in our homeland's promising future and my encouragement to the Peronist faithful, urging them to uphold their unswerving loyalty to General Peron's ideals, which are a sure road for achieving grandeur and well-being. With my usual humility, I am announcing my decision to return to Argentina soon to join my efforts to those of my unforgettable and dear comrades."

NAVY UNITS BEGIN EXERCISES IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

PY240107 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2212 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 23 Nov (NA) -- It has been learned that sea fleet ships moored in Puerto Belgrano and a contingent of submarines from Mar del Plata today sailed to carry out various kinds of naval exercises in Argentine territorial waters. Most of the ships sailed from Puerto Belgrano. It is believed that the exercises will be held approximately 90 miles south of Mar de Plata.

The fleet carried out similar exercises in the same area a few days ago. The exercises included the firing of an MM-38 (sea-to-sea) Exocet missile at a specified target.

According to what was learned, the submarines participating in the exercises will test their firing capacity.

ECONOMY MINISTER-DESIGNATE GRINSPUN INTERVIEWED

PY242000 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 17 Nov 83 pp 14, 15, 59

[Interview granted by Argentine Economy Minister-designate Bernardo Grinspun to CLARIN in Buenos Aires on 16 November]

[Excerpts] [Question] Doctor, from the very outset do you have in mind the implementation of a so-called emergency plan, an ad hoc program that would be put into effect immediately?

[Answer] There are ad hoc measures. I would say that we actually have a broad strategy first, a broad strategy for the entire government. As time goes by, this broad strategy will have to be modified. This is not a kind of iron rail on which, no matter what happens, we will be moving along, ignoring reality. There will be worldwide changes that we will have to accept as part of a dynamic process, a process that will change with the number of problems to which that broad strategy will have to be adapted. We do indeed have a well-defined stand with respect to this matter, but there is a broad strategy that will be modified to match those changes. Because it is not the same when the prices on the international market are moving up or down as when the interest rates are soaring or dropping. These are events which may lead to a quicker or slower domestic recovery than we expect. Along these lines we will have to start implementing short-, medium-, and long-term programs, along with ad hoc measures, that will have to be consistent. We will be implementing control mechanisms. We are looking into the creation of a council similar to CONADE [National Council for Development] or possibly a secretariat. This will be a multipurpose agency, since it will not only deal with the economy but will also handle other issues related to social development, health, housing, and education. What we do know is that Sourrouille (Juan) will be heading this agency. Therefore, I believe that the technical capacities are thus guaranteed from the very beginning. We have requested that Sourrouille have the complete initial draft available by mid-1984. This means that by the second half of 1984, we should be finishing it up and then obtaining the appropriate sanctions from the appropriate bodies, either Congress or whichever agency is appropriate. Therefore, as of 1985 and until the completion of this term, we might be able to have a development program in operation...

[Question] But is it possible to have a short-term emergency program, say in 6 months..?

[Answer] That is correct. The problem is that we are working on figures, on actual data, which are altered in a country with a 15- to 20-percent monthly inflation, a country where things change abruptly overnight, with drastic changes in relative prices. But somehow we must have a batch of measures for immediate implementation, measures that must be consistent with the short-, medium-, and long-term programs.

[Question] On these measures for immediate implementation we have an obvious question: Do they contain a general increase in salaries?

[Answer] By chance, the day before yesterday (Monday) the initial meeting of the social-economic members of the cabinet was held and we discussed the guidelines to be set. We must abide by the laws in force. If we are returning to a state of law, there must be laws by which we must abide. We know that in Argentina there was a superconstitutional government, a government that ignored the Constitution, a government that amended the Constitution and enacted laws at whim. We cannot do this now; there will be laws here as of 10 December.

What we have to do first is to see what is required by the Constitution, by the laws, in order to make changes in our salary policies, and this is being reviewed, on one hand. On the other hand, we are assessing all kinds of data that are related to an income policy, a policy which must be outlined immediately. In this regard, wages and retirement pay play a key role, don't they?

[Question] How does the living allowance minimum salary with escalator provision fit into this scheme?

[Answer] Unfortunately, we will not have the living allowance minimum salary with escalator provision law enacted by 12 December. When that law is sanctioned, salaried workers will have "that floor" and there will be other ceilings as well. Anyway, during the first phase, everyone will be in the same situation; no sector will enjoy a mandatory minimum salary. What we are looking into is the leverage allowed us by the laws until the living allowance minimum salary with escalator provision is sanctioned, seeing what the government's legal provisions are, whether we should seek a resolution or a decree issued by the executive branch. Although the government has budget appropriations for increasing public servants' salaries, it is not clear what the provisions for increasing private sector salaries allow.

[Question] But, on the whole, there is a political decision to increase the salaries in December, until the living allowance minimum salary with escalator clause is enacted...

[Answer] Not in December, not a raise in salary. Period. I imagine that it will be in December when a decision is made, but this depends on our studies.

[Question] The living allowance minimum salaries with escalator provision will be for a segment of salaried workers. How will the salaries for the other segments be handled?

[Answer] In due time, through collective bargaining. However, I want to point out that this would mean over 600 bargaining meetings, around 616 bargaining meetings I believe, and this cannot be accomplished in a single day. It is an overwhelming task. What we have to decide now is how we are going to deal with this issue until the collective bargaining takes place.

I do not know if the bureaucratic apparatus is the one to handle these issues. But 616 bargaining meetings cannot be held at once. Some unions are well organized, others are not, and others have been intervened. These are questions that the labor minister should answer. What will be happening in the meantime? That is the problem. The most fundamental matter is that there should be a government salary policy that motivates the private sector. If I say 4 percent, they should not raise salaries by 32 percent. Let this be a means for motivation, not a means for fixing salaries through the government. We must jointly review this with Minister Mucci. By next Monday we expect to have all the legal provisions made clear.

[Question] Will this agreement only cover prices and salaries?

[Answer] I would be willing to discuss all variables which may deal with Argentine economic development, be it for the short-, long-, or medium-term, so that it all seems to fit together. But in the end we will be returning to this price and salary issue because the people are concerned over their most pressing problems.

As master Keynes would say, in the long run we will be dead... All that we can agree upon, we will agree upon. But by no means will we fail to meet our -- the government's -- legal commitments. What I want to say is that we will not say... "This was not done by the bargaining agency, so we know nothing about it..." What we are striving for is that instead of taking all the steps by ourselves, we are willing to talk to all representative sectors so that these steps may be coordinated and a consensus may be reached. If there is a consensus and the government understands that it is correct, then we will proceed with it. But if a workers' sector bargains for salary increases way above the rest due to its monopolistic position... then we will say no. One sector can do this, but things can't happen to the detriment of the country's economy as a whole.

[Question] Is there a goal that the interest rates for saving account holders will stay more or less on a par with inflation?

[Answer] We have always said that the interest rates for the saving account holders will be profitable. We do not at all want "liquid" savings to sit idly, and we believe that a profitable interest rate for saving account holders is commensurate with the prime rates for businesses which affect the community as a whole.

[Question] Will you keep the interest rates regulated?

[Answer] We will set the interest rates directly through the Central Bank, both the interest rates charged to borrowers and the interest rates paid to depositors.

[Question] Will they be set as they are being set now, through the regulated financial market?

[Answer] I am telling you what my general ideas are.... Of course, I do not want to contradict Dr Garcia Vazquez.... We have to have interest rates that are conducive to lower inflation. I will try to set interest rates 1 month in advance of the expected lower inflation. This has several advantages. First, it effectively induces reduced inflation and reduced financial costs. By giving the impression that interest rates will keep going down, savers will be induced to prefer making long-term deposits, and there will be more inducement to save. No one would put money in savings for 7 days. We will then begin to transform the current deposits structure, which favors the short term. If borrowers get used to the idea that interest rates will continue to drop, they will be in no hurry to borrow money and will only do so according to their needs, because they will not be expecting a rush on credits if they wait 1 or 2 more days. Inducing this turnabout will be difficult, but if the motor can just be turned on, it will have an important multiplying effect. Currently, we are taking inconsistent steps.

[Question] It is being said that the exchange rate is undervalued....

[Answer] When I was asked about this yesterday (Tuesday, 15 November), I wanted to say that a balanced exchange rate is one that tends to level the trade balance. This is a theoretical concept. The question here is to see if the current dollar exchange rate responds to the need for developing a trade balance surplus. If it does not, the dollar exchange rate has to be readjusted.

[Question] Will ceilings be established on the prices of some products as soon as you take office, so that inflation can be controlled before agreements on prices are sought with businessmen?

[Answer] At the beginning we will not establish price ceilings. But if after a while we observe distortions in the market, we will adopt direct intervention measures, including price ceilings.

[Question] You talked about a single exchange rate. Does this mean that we will not have one exchange rate for financial operations and another for commercial operations?

[Answer] There will be a single rate of exchange, but only nominally. In practice, through the withholdings or rebates on exports, there will be one exchange rate for the agricultural sector and another for the industrial sector.

[Question] Will the import restrictions instituted by the military government late in September be lifted?

[Answer] Our plan calls for suspending the import restrictions for a while, perhaps for 6 months, on nonessential imports, and for automatically authorizing essential imports. We will prepare lists of products that can be freely imported. The importation of those items that are not on the lists will run into barriers.

[Question] In the case of the industrial sector, has any special resolution been adopted to take care of the tremendous financial debts?

[Answer] I do not want to invade the Central Bank jurisdiction, but our intention is to establish a mechanism that will refinance the debts of the most affected sectors. This mechanism will be established through a refinancing bond which the enterprises will cash at the Central Bank in order to relieve the factories. But this system will be selective. There are productive sectors which at this time are in a good financial situation, such as the agricultural, livestock, and services sectors which, with some exceptions have no need to receive special refinancing. The exclusiveness will even be applied to industrial sectors, because while there are some that have not been able to pay for some time, there are others that enjoy an adequate credit system.

[Question] Will there be selectively subsidized credits for some sectors?

[Answer] Discount lines for preferentially financing some activities will be established. These benefits will be accorded to the housing sector, agrochemicals production, and, moreover, goods for the "family basket".

[Question] Are we going to have discriminating customs tariffs?

[Answer] We will act to eliminate some distortions at first. In the second phase, we will prepare a long-term customs tariff schedule, with differential tariffs depending on the value added. At first, we will establish three levels: one for capital goods, another for basic inputs, and a third for consumer products. In addition, we will set low tariffs on goods that cannot be produced locally.

[Question] Will you go to the Paris Club to refinance Argentina's foreign debt?

[Answer] I don't believe so. Only official debts, which are small in relation to the total debt volume, can be negotiated with the Paris Club. Just imagine that to refinance $1.5 to $2.0 billion we will have to sit at the same table with Great Britain. That will make any negotiation more difficult. I have to settle the debt problem with the commercial banks.

[Question] Is that to say that you will not tackle government-to-government renegotiations?

[Answer] We will give a political slant to all renegotiations with governments, because doing so will make the commercial banks more willing to negotiate. Once we have done that with governments, the UCR [Radical Civic Union] government will tell bankers that in 1984 Argentina is willing to pay them a sum equivalent to the trade balance surplus, some $3 billion.

[Question] Judging by what you have said publicly, won't you refuse to use IMF resources?

[Answer] Absolutely. We will prepare our program based on a national position, and then we will go to the IMF. If that financial institution accepts what we are going to do and grants us a "stand-by" credit, we will use it gladly. But to me it seems hard to believe, almost impossible, that this will happen. When the IMF turns us down, it will not be able to say that we did not want to negotiate.

[Question] What will you do with the "stand-by" agreement now in force?

[Answer] The agreement signed by the military government will be in force when we take office, but it is unfulfilled. We will not be able to fulfill it, because we are going to adopt a policy other than the one established in that agreement.

[Question] Do you believe, as does Delfim Netto [Brazilian planning minister], that the foreign debt problem is as much a problem for the debtor countries as for the creditor countries?

[Answer] I believe that the foreign debt problem is more a problem for the creditors than for the debtors. We have nothing more to lose.

COMMENTARY NOTES FRENCH INFLUENCE ON POLICY

PY231328 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Nov 83 pp 1, 4

[J. Iglesias Rouco commentary: "Oh Paris"]

[Excerpts] The so-called Alfonsinist "leftist" group, particularly the not yet very well-known "coordinating board" made up of some relatively young people of the Franja Morada group, including Dante Caputo and Mrs Elsa Kelly -- who will head the Argentine Foreign Ministry in the forthcoming administration -- appear decided to "harmonize" Argentine foreign policy with that of the Mitterrand government vis-a-vis Latin America. Mitterrand's government is the most reluctant of the European social democracies to accept the new U.S. strategy in Central America and the Caribbean, although after the U.S. intervention in Grenada the French policy toward the region has lost -- perhaps only for a time -- a good portion of its anti-American Gaullist chauvinism of the past few years.

There are no indications that these sectors of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] are united or have a common front in the areas of leadership, common programs or interests, or coordinated internal political activity. According to our sources, Mrs Kelly, for example, who has been working with Alfonsin in the area of foreign relations for a long time, did not expect Caputo's appointment as foreign minister until a few days after the elections. She had expected the appointment of Gobbi, whose views on international problems have little or nothing to do with Caputo's viewpoints. (Oddly enough, Mrs Kelly reportedly was a member of the so-called Malvinas group in the Foreign Ministry during the Costa Mendez administration, a group whose policies Alfonsin never thought highly of.)

This is not surprising because the new minister, who a few months ago prepared a well-planned future trip to France by Alfonsin, did not have many contacts with the UCR leadership, a party he only recently joined. Moreover, Alfonsin has never centralized under a single command or even under an organizational structure the various aides who have joined him over the years.

Caputo, who apparently does not have much experience in Argentine diplomacy, did represent, however, one of the most important European "bases" of the president-elect, along with Solari Yrigoyen. And this is precisely the circumstance which is reportedly determining Alfonsin's "French-style" foreign policy, not only on matters of strategy but also in the structural field. Solari Yrigoyen will be a roving ambassador equivalent to Mr Blanca, Mitterrand's special envoy. Blanca and Debray -- the French president's adviser on Latin American affairs and for many years a sympathizer of Castro and "Che" Guevara who, after his Bolivian adventure, reportedly changed his position considerably but did not abandon some of his Marxist ideals -- and the "political scientist" Rouquier were, among others, reportedly some of Caputo's frequent contacts in Paris where he lived and studied for several years. Through this channel, French socialism, which provided financial support to Alfonsin, is guiding its efforts toward this goal: to make Argentina Paris' springboard into the Southern Cone just as it did with Mexico -- making allowances for its proximity to the United States -- for its complex maneuvers in Central America. Therefore, it is logical that in this context the declarations recently released by Alfonsin and the Mexican Government on Grenada are the most similar in tone on the continent.

We do not believe that these "young" Alfonsinists know where they are going. As we said, they still have not become a uniform front. For example, Luis Caceres, Jarolasky, Nosiglia, Caputo, German Lopez, Kelly, Stubrin, Silva, Gass Sadosky, Gorostiza, Solari Yrigoyen, etc., have more intentions that firm common bases, other than the fact that they will hold positions such as the Foreign Ministry, the presidency of the city council, the culture institute, and other posts to be obtained. (Caceres' last offensive for control over the party was stopped by Alfonsin himself, but Caceres will try again soon.) However, the permeability of this group, in addition to the cracks which the "center-right" tends to open in the UCR, can give way to larger leaks. Although enlightening, the Paris influence -- Oh Paris -- can also be damaging.

CP LEADER VIEWS ELECTION RESULTS, FUTURE

AU221503 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Nov 83 p 6

[Interview given by Athos Fava, secretary general of the Argentine Communist Party, to Stanislav Stepanek for RUDE PRAVO in Buenos Aires: "Two Alternatives of Development",--date of interview not given]

[Text] Several days after the Argentine general elections, Athos Fava, the secretary general of the Argentine Communist Party, granted an interview to a RUDE PRAVO special reporter.

[Stepanek] How do you assess the results of the recent elections?

[Fava] We regard them primarily as a defeat for the military dictatorship. The elections themselves are a victory for the fight waged by the Argentine people, above all by the working class, which has paid for this with the lives of thousands of people. It is typical that most victims came from among the Peronists, from among the party that was defeated in these elections.

We think that it is in this respect in particular that the reaction proceeded with great skill. The mass communications media especially succeeded in singing the proper praises of Alfonsin (candidate of the Radical Civic Union -- RUDE PRAVO). They succeeded in portraying him as the embodiment of peace and order. This had its effect on the middle strata, and also on women. He also received the votes of a large group of politically inexperienced young people whom the military dictatorship had oppressed the most. Finally, Alfonsin offered the clearest alternative for ensuring the country's political stability and for definitely putting an end to the period of state coups d'etat.

[Stepanek] On the other hand, the Peronists' campaign was a considerable disappointment.

[Fava] Peronism, the individual Peronist sectors, and the leading Peronist representatives acted in a way that made the communications media portray them as representing an intolerant party, a party that does not respect other political forces, a party that would be unable to ensure either peace or the political stability so greatly needed by the country and the Argentine people. In this way they succeeded in isolating the working class, which forms the mass base of Peronism, and in counterposing the working class and the middle strata during the preelection battle between the Peronists and the anti-Peronists.

[Stepanek] The rightwingers' voices have also played a certain role...

[Fava] When this situation was established, all right-wing parties decided to vote for Alfonsin. If we now study the election results, if we look at who the right-wing parties voted for in 1973, then we will see that these votes represent a total of about 15 percent. Of course, Alfonsin was not the candidate of the dictatorship or of reaction. Since the rightwingers had no strong candidate of their own, they -- not selflessly -- took Alfonsin's side. In view of the character of the Radical Civic Union and in view of the political conditions in the country, we are of the opinion that, due to pressures from outside, there are two alternatives for this government in our country: On the one hand, the government will be under pressure from the workers and popular masses, and not only the Peronist ones, to fulfill their election program and to push through the democratic alternative. On the other hand, there will undoubtedly be pressure by right-wing forces, which will demand that the government implement the policy of solidarity with North American imperialism -- which means a policy that suits reaction.

[Stepanek] This, of course, indicates the potential danger of destabilization.

[Fava] Actually, that is why the Argentine Communist Party is so assiduously pushing forward the idea that it is necessary to achieve an agreement with all the political parties, particularly with the Radicals and Peronists, and thus ensure political stability in the country.

[Stepanek] What does the Argentine Communist Party deduce from the election results?

[Fava] The election results were not good for the party. We believed that we would win at least twice as many votes as we actually received. We are carefully analyzing the reasons for this. It is a fact that the polarization of forces meant a drop in votes for all parties; some political parties have even completely disappeared from the political arena. But this was only one of the factors that influenced the overall results. We are also of the opinion that our party's decision to vote for the Peronists had not been fully grasped and implemented throughout the party. So far we have not succeeded in finally analyzing this entire issue. We are conducting negotiations with all bodies, in order to find global, precise, and sincere conclusions.

[Stepanek] From this viewpoint, what are the most important tasks facing the party?

[Fava] We think that the current situation does not mean a retreat for the Argentine Communist Party, since the tactics that the party has adopted enable it to establish close contacts with the working masses, particularly with the Peronist masses. The Argentine Communist Party is maintaining close contacts with the basic organizations of Peronism. We believe that we have very positive prospects for improving our work and for further progress within the framework of the workers' movement. You see, there is a discrepancy between the votes the Argentine Communist Party won and its potential. For instance, the organization of the Argentine workers' movement began last year; simultaneously with this, the elections of so-called delegates began in the plants. Our party has almost 2,000 such delegates. The membership base is also successfully developing. We believe that we can both consolidate all these forces and strengthen them. Therefore, it is also no coincidence that the right-wing attacks against our party are increasing.

[Stepanek] In your opinion, what is the most important element for making the coming government successful?

[Fava] Alfonsin has promised a lot, and the people now expect him to start fulfilling these promises. People are already saying that if Alfonsin fulfills even 50 percent of what he has promised, they will be satisfied. In other words, it is generally known that a considerable portion of what the Radicals have been promising is mere demagogy. Alfonsin announced significant changes and committed himself to resolving such basic problems as wages, the inflation rate, the lack of medical care and education, and hunger and children's malnutrition. He has given birth to great illusions among the people. We will widely support all measures aimed at improving the living standard.

Alfonsin has also given birth to great hopes as regards a solution of the problem of Argentina's large foreign debt. But a large question-mark is hanging over the question of how he intends to resolve this. We think that it is necessary to find out the true amount of the debt, both the state and the private debt. Furthermore, the repayment conditions must be renegotiated, so as to do away with the threat to the country's economic stability, so that the living and working conditions do not deteriorate further and the living standard of the working masses does not worsen.

In the foreign policy sphere, the Radicals have declared that they will continue to support Argentina's continuing integration in the Nonaligned Movement. We agree with this. But at the same time they intend to rebuild relations with the United States, as the United States also wished. This could lead to the consequence that Argentina would have to pursue a foreign policy that would suit the United States -- which means leaving the Nonaligned Movement, meddling in the affairs of the countries of Central America, imitating the policy of the U.S. Government, and coming to an agreement with Britain in the Malvinas problem -- that is, in this issue to refrain from discussing our sovereignty. These are conditions that are unacceptable to the majority of those who voted for the Radical Civic Union, and above all, to the Radical youth, who would rise in opposition against all these steps.

[Stepanek] Since we are speaking of the Malvinas, I would like to ask: How was the support expressed by the socialist countries for the Argentine people in the armed conflict of the Malvinas received?

[Fava] The support of all socialist countries, which have taken the side of the Argentine people in this fight against British colonialism, was highly appreciated by the vast majority of the Argentine people.

A correct attitude in this matter was also adopted by the nonaligned countries and the Latin American states. The problem of the Malvinas has also unambiguously revealed Washington's attitude. The fact that the United States has taken Britain's side has raised a vast wave of anti-imperialist sentiment throughout Latin America. We can say that the Argentine people are grateful to the people of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and of course, all countries of the socialist community. The problem of the Malvinas is disturbing, because nuclear bases are currently being established there, which are directly aimed at the heart of Argentine Patagonia.

[Stepanek] I thank you for the interview.

PERONIST GUERRILLA LEADER EYES NEW ADMINISTRATION

PY250018 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Sao Paulo, 22 Nov (EFE) -- According to Mario Eduardo Firmenich, the success of the Argentine Radical party's administration will depend on "its ability to mobilize the social forces in order to formulate and implement a new national plan."

The leader of the Peronist Montonero Movement made a statement to EFE before departing from the Sao Paulo International Airport for Mexico.

The leader of the Peronist party's leftist faction added that "the Argentine plan to be drawn up by Raul Alfonsin should guarantee the economic development of Argentina's internal market without yielding to foreign pressures, particularly from the international financial system."

Firmenich participated as a delegate in the fourth meeting of South American democratic and popular parties held at the Sao Paulo State legislative assembly.

The guerrilla leader attributed the Peronist party's defeat in the recent presidential elections to "its inability to update its platform in keeping with the evolution of Argentina's political process." Firmenich said that after "Isabel Peron's disastrous government, the Peronist party remained static and dogmatic."

In conclusion, the Argentine guerrilla leader said that solving Argentina's foreign debt problem will be "both delicate and difficult, among other things, because of the lack of the political conditions favoring the creation of a debtors' club headed by Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico."

ITALIAN JUDGES QUESTION WITNESSES ON P2 LODGE

PY242340 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1249 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (NA) -- Italian Judges Carlos Palermo and Francesco Simeoni went to Federal Judge Nicasio Dibur's office today to question witnesses in connection with the investigation of an alleged illegal sale of Exocet missiles to Argentina during the Malvinas war.

The two Italian judges are investigating the links of the "Propaganda 2 Masonic Lodge in the illegal arms traffic that has been discovered in Italy. Members of Italian secret organizations are reportedly involved in this traffic.

The Italian courts have asked Judge Dibur to investigate in Argentina the connections that the Italian organization could have with Argentine criminals.

ECONOMIC MEASURES YIELDING POSITIVE RESULTS

PY261544 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The recent economic measures have allowed the state companies to move from a deficit to a surplus in their current account balance sheets. The finance minister has said that the government is thus fulfilling one of its functions, that of defending the state companies and thus allowing a better distribution of income. He explained that prior to the economic measures the state companies had a deficit of 6,521,000,000 Bolivian pesos.

Finance Minister Fernando Baptista Gumucio stressed that the government has never chosen to take IMF measures, explaining that under certain circumstances it is necessary to decide on corrective measures, with or without the IMF.

Workers Reject Measures

PY240118 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Excerpts] During a massive rally organized by the Cochabamba Labor Federation in the city of Cochabamba, workers rejected the economic measures enacted by the government last week, claiming that they are harmful to the interests of workers and the low income sector.

Speaking during the rally, Cochabamba Labor Federation Secretary General Sabino Rodriguez said that the Bolivian people will no longer tolerate political inconsistencies on the part of the Siles Zuazo administration. Our correspondent in Cochabamba filed this report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent relay] During a rally in which workers rejected the economic package enacted by the Siles Zuazo administration, Cochabamba labor organization Secretary General Sabino Rodriguez warned that the government must be careful with what it does because the people will no longer tolerate inconsistencies.

In response to a call made by the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation], Cochabamba workers gathered at the Plaza 14 de Setiembre. There, all speeches condemned the government and charged that the newly enacted economic package is harmful to workers and to the people.

Sabino Rodriguez pointed out that the government is inconsistent because a few hours after decreeing a salary readjustment it imposed an economic package without consulting the COB.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES PARLIAMENT'S COUP 'SCHEMES'

PA252056 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] In La Paz, Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has said that he will firmly defend the democratic process that was established 1 year ago in Bolivia. At the same time, he reported the existence of a plot to oust him from office.

In a message broadcast over television and radio, Siles Zuazo spoke about the schemes to depose him that are being plotted within parliament, and said that the attempt to carry out an institutionalized coup is a cynical coverup for constitutional violations.

He added that there are sectors that are promoting chaos, unruliness, and more social unrest, which has increased in the past few days because of a serious escalation of terrorism.

After noting that his administration inherited the ills of past dictatorships, Siles Zuazo stated that Bolivia was able to secure $1 billion in foreign aid thanks to the international recognition that his administration enjoys.

PAZ ZAMORA PROPOSED AS OPTION TO SILES

PY251705 Paris AFP in Spanish 0005 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] La Paz, 24 Nov (AFP) -- The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), which is led by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, today condemned the attitude of the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party by stating that the latter has turned into the most active supporter of the economic starvation package imposed upon the people by Hernan Siles Zuazo's government, a government which is submissive to foreign interests.

In a statement issued today, the MIR denies the charges leveled by the communists, who have accused the MIR of being an accomplice of former de facto President Hugo Banzer Suarez (1971-1978). The MIR said that the communists have forgotten that it had been forged in resistance to Banzer's dictatorial starvation regime.

The MIR, which left the government in January, states that to cope with the unsound choice between Siles Zuazo's inability and a coup, it is offering a democratic option through Paz Zamora's new leadership.

MINISTER BLAMES TERRORISM ON BANZER'S PARTY

PY261854 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The latest terrorist attacks in the country, particularly in this capital, have been committed by the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), the political party headed by General Hugo Banzer Suarez. This statement was made by Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata during a press conference this morning. He said that there is sufficient evidence to make this statement.

One proof is the detention of Gonzalo Torrico Flores, a founder of the ADN and currently political adviser to the Senate International Policy Commission. The minister stated that Torrico Flores has been busy recruiting people to carry out a plan of provocations against the Soviet and Cuban embassies in order to cause friction in the foreign relations of the country.

The minister reported the detention of 10 people, most of them youths aged 15 to 18, who had been instructed by Gonzalo Torrico Flores, a member of the ADN. The task of this group was to stage demonstrations and stone some embassies, mainly those of socialist countries.

Banzer's Party Rejects Charges

PY261856 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN], headed by former President Hugo Banzer Suarez, categorically rejects the statements made by Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata, who has blamed ADN for the terrorist escalation. The accusation was made at a press conference at the Interior Ministry this morning.

A statement has been made by Guillermo Fortun Suarez, one of the ADN top leaders, who said that Minister Alvarez Plata should present evidence for his statements.

[Begin Fortun recording] We believe that there is other news that is much more important, such as the report published in a daily that government elements have been unmasked through the capture of vehicles with bombs. This is evidence that the wave of terror has its origin in groups that we have accused in the Chamber of Deputies, the guerrilla groups being formed from abroad with foreign money.

Now it appears that the executive branch comes to the defense of the Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Russian embassies, and wants to involve my party in that question. As far as I know, the attacks have rather been made against people of my party and against the congress. It would be well for the interior minister to make that clear. [end recording]

Gonzalo Torrico Flores, who has been detained for terrorist activities, according to the interior minister, does not belong to the ADN. Guillermo Fortun Sanchez said that Gonzalo Torrico left the party toward the end of 1979.

TALKS TO BE HELD WITH CHILE OVER SEA ACCESS

FY261907 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0112 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] La Paz, 25 Nov (EFE) -- Bolivian Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado today said that Bolivia wants to begin a dialogue leading to rapprochement with Chile in order to solve its landlocked situation.

During a press conference, Ortiz Mercado said that the talks that Chile and Bolivia will hold under the auspices of the OAS will take place in Bogota on a date yet to be established. Ortiz Mercado praised the negotiations undertaken by the Colombian Government to facilitate a rapprochement with Chile in search of a "useful and sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean" for Bolivia.

He said that the OAS decision to promote a dialogue between Chile and Bolivia was a "small step forward" in the Bolivian struggle to win access to the sea. The Bolivian minister added that his country "does not regard the OAS resolution as a triumph, because if there was any winner at all, it was the Americas." Ortiz Mercado added that for his country, the OAS decision "is an initial step that may lead to the attainment of preestablished goals if properly developed."

Bolivia lost its Pacific Ocean coast after a war with Chile in 1897; since then Bolivia has promoted a systematic campaign of international solidarity to gain access to the sea.

Ortiz Mercado said that "the Bolivian Government is optimistic over the outcome of the dialogue with Chile." However, he made it clear that before engaging in talks with Chile, the Bolivian Government will consult with congress to make sure that the proposals to be formulated in Bogota will be based on national consensus.

Asked about when the talks in Bogota will take place, the Bolivian minister replied that no dates have been established yet because everything will depend on the time availability of the Bolivian, Chilean, and Colombian foreign policy officials.

He reiterated that "Bolivia will never give up its claims for access to the sea," and that "the entire American Continent has extended its support" for our cause.

He said he was convinced that the ideological difference between the government of Chile and Bolivia will not hinder the negotiations over Bolivia's landlocked situation.

He did not specify whether the two countries would resume diplomatic relations, which were broken in 1976, and remarked that this will depend on "the course of the negotiations and on the will of the Bolivian people."

Ortiz Mercado stressed that the Bolivian decision to engage in a dialogue with Chile "does not mean that Bolivia gave up its decision to address the issue from a multilateral viewpoint; it means that there is willingness to solve the problem through direct talks."

At the OAS General Assembly session, Colombia submitted a proposal sponsoring a rapprochement between Chile and Bolivia in search of a solution to Bolivia's landlocked situation. The Colombian proposal won unanimous support from OAS members. The local press has said that the OAS resolution calls for bilateral or trilateral negotiations on the issue, and that this means that the OAS supports the Chilean position. Chile has maintained that "only through direct negotiations will it be possible to solve the problem of access to the sea for Bolivia."

PRESIDENT TO ATTEND ALFONSIN'S INAUGURATION

PY240100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2352 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] La Paz, 23 Nov (AFP) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo will go to Buenos Aires on 10 December to attend the inauguration of Argentine President-elect Raul Alfonsin, Information Minister Maria Rueda Pena confirmed here today.

Rueda Pena also reported that Siles Zuazo will not go to Colombia for the ceremonies marking Simon Bolivar's bicentennial on 17 December, thus denying press reports from Bogota.

Rueda Pena also denied that Siles Zuazo will undergo an eye operation in Colombia.

'VAST TERRORIST PLAN' DISCOVERED IN LA PAZ

PY261540 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The morning paper HOY says on its front page that a member of the Worker-Peasant Revolutionary Group of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] has been detained after driving a Toyota jeep without license plates that belonged to (Janet Rospigliosi), directress of the Financial Board of the Presidency. The group committed the terrorist attack that took place in the Miraflores district on Thursday night at 2330.

The report, provided to various news media by sources close to the police, adds that the arrest took place after a long chase. Firearms, dynamite, and the license plates of the vehicle were found in the jeep. It was then verified that the license plates belonged to the vehicle of (Janet Rospigliosi), currently the directress of the Financial Board of the Presidency.

Security personnel then went to the home of the arrested person, where they confiscated dynamite, weapons, posters, passports, and maps of various parts of the country, which shows that it was the beginning of a vast terrorist plan, it was said.

BOMB DESTROYS ORURO JOURNALISTS UNION BUILDING

PY261724 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1524 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Oruro, 26 Nov (EFE) -- According to a police report, a terrorist attack staged early this morning caused substantial damage to the Oruro journalists union headquarters building. No casualties were reported, but the building was seriously damaged since its roof was practically blown away.

This is the fourth terrorist attack staged in recent days against mass media facilities and journalists union headquarters.

On previous occasions, the La Paz newspapers HOY and MERIDIANO, LOS TIEMPOS of Cochabamba, and LA PATRIA of Oruro were the targets of terrorist actions.

The Terrorist attacks were also perpetrated against the houses of Jorge Siles Salinas and Mario Mercado, director and owner of the evening newspaper ULTIMA HORA respectively.

STUDENTS SCORE PARAMILITARY IN DEATH OF LEADER

PY242230 Paris AFP in Spanish 1601 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] La Paz, 24 Nov (AFP) -- A student assembly of the main national university has claimed that extreme rightist paramilitary groups are responsible for the death of Student Leader Carlos Rene Duran Zuleta, who was killed 2 days ago in La Paz. The police are investigating the case in which Duran Zuleta was apparently kidnapped and tortured before he died.

Duran Zuleta was secretary of the Local University Federation (FUL) and a prominent youth leader of the Socialist Party One (P1), which was founded by the late Deputy Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz. The death of the student leader increased the tension in the country due to the terrorist attacks that are taking place in major Bolivian cities.

TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC SECTOR, COURT STRIKES LIFTED

PY251935 Paris AFP in Spanish 1628 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpts] La Paz, 25 Nov (AFP) -- Today the Bolivian Government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo resolved three work strikes that have affected the transportation and public sectors and the courts. The Siles Zuazo administration thus managed to cope with the still unsettled atmosphere of social unrest prevailing in Bolivia.

The transportation sector announced last night that a satisfactory agreement was reached with the government on transportation fares. The sector has regarded the last readjustment as minimal.

The end of the transportation sector strike will permit the resumption of activities in the education system, which has been paralyzed for 8 days.

Labor minister Horst Grebe, a Communist Party member, has announced that the indefinite strike called by the public sector was solved after the government decided to grant a salary readjustment to that sector.

The Supreme Court also announced the resumption of its activities, calling its employees to report to work.

FIGUEIREDO INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN POLICY

PM232030 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18-19 Nov 83 p 6

[Interview with Brazilian President Figueiredo by unidentified APS correspondent -- date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: What might be termed a rebalancing of Brazil's foreign policy has been noted over the last few years. Your speech at the United Nations in 1982 and your remarks during President Ronald Reagan's visit to your country are perfect examples of this. Brazil, considering that its interests are not necessarily those of the United States, is rediscovering its natural place in the family of the Third World. Mr President, how is this rebalancing manifested specifically as regards: 1. Central America and the Caribbean? 2. Africa as a whole and, of course, your stance with respect to the Pretoria regime? and 3. The problem of the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue?

Answer: Brazil's international positions are determined by manifold processes which reflect the multifaceted nature of our presence in the international system. In fact, we have several "natural homes" in the world, and we define our diplomatic positions on the basis of a balanced assessment of them. To this effect, if we are a Third World country because of our circumstances -- and this fact will imply international options -- we are also a Latin American country, an Atlantic country, a country which has a large African community and which has received immigrants from all corners of the globe, a country which espouses the values of democracy and pluralism -- and these characteristics could be multiplied. The most important thing is to say that Brazil is a complex country with many facets that expresses these characteristics when it acts in the diplomatic field. Concurrently, we have a long diplomatic tradition based on the strictest respect for the principles of international coexistence and constantly oriented toward peace and conciliation.

We have attempted to define Brazil's international positions, taking into account the country's own dynamism and the fluctuations of the international situation. Our positions have been clear and coherent, and, in the case of the issues mentioned, are well-known. I will attempt to cite their main points:

1. As regards Central America and the Caribbean, we believe that the causes of the crisis experienced by that region are of a structural nature and require long-term solutions and the exclusion of the use of force. We are in favor of strict implementation of the principles of peoples' self-determination, states' sovereignty, and non-interference, and we advocate a search for a negotiated and diplomatic solution to the various regional issues, as the Contadora Group, whose efforts we support, has attempted to do.

2. Africa is a fraternal continent, and my visit to African countries is aimed at fully confirming Brazil's readiness to strengthen its ties with this continent, whose children have made an important contribution to defining the Brazilian national identity. We are prepared to cooperate with the African countries in all fields; indeed, we have already done much in terms of political dialogue and economic, cultural, and scientific exchanges. By virtue of the very way in which Brazilian society was formed, we could have had no position other than that of clearly condemning all forms of racism, and, in particular, apartheid.

On this issue we have a common position with the fraternal peoples of Africa. We condemn the apartheid system, not only because of its intrinsic illegitimacy and immorality but also as a factor of tension and conflict in the subregion of southern

3. We believe that the Palestinian issue is central to the resolution of the various crises affecting the Middle East, today exacerbated by the situation in Lebanon. It is necessary, on the basis of the UN resolutions, to reach agreed solutions in the region; solutions in which justice would prevail, the territories occupied by force would be evacuated, exercise of the Palestinian people's rights, including their self-determination and sovereignty, would be guaranteed, and in which the conditions enabling all states in the region to live in peace within their borders would be created.

Question: Brazil and Algeria are two large countries of the south. South-South cooperation, when it is accomplished, is undoubtedly one of the factors which could help change the current framework of international trade relations, which are detrimental to the Third World countries for more than one reason. What hopes, Mr President, do you have for the development of trade between Algeria and Brazil?

Answer: The prospects for development of the cooperation between Algeria and Brazil seem to be very promising. I therefore confidently and optimistically view the future of our relations, which I regard as exemplary within the broader context of this new spirit of cooperation prompting the developing countries.

My confidence is based on analysis of the conditions existing in our two countries, whose potentials and infrastructures constitute a sound basis of support for a whole complex effort to develop bilateral relations. In fact, the diversification and complementariness of our respective economies make possible much heavier and more mutually advantageous trade than we have hitherto been able to have.

As for my optimism, it should be attributed to our currently reaffirmed political will to multiply contacts and strengthen cooperation. Thus the convergence of our stances will be turned to account, with creativeness and a constructive spirit, to stimulate our relations in the various fields, giving them a character more in keeping with our two countries' relative importance.

I especially bear in mind the obvious need to strengthen our political dialogue. Algeria and Brazil are two large Third World countries, and, as such, have a considerable capacity for diplomatic influence which requires us, in the common interest, to considerably strengthen diplomatic dialogue, in particular, between our two governments.

CABINET CHIEF SEEKS TRANSITION GOVERNMENT

PY251714 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Nov 83 p 7

[Text] A proposal for a transition government headed by a president elected indirectly for a 2-5 year term is being presented to political leaders by Civilian Cabinet Chief Leitao de Abreu. This was revealed to O ESTADO by a PDS [Social Democratic Party] congressman who spoke with Abreu recently.

The Planalto Palace is convinced that, on the opposition side, the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] and the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] could back the proposal, which is likely to be rejected by the PT [Workers' Party] and by sectors of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party], and by the PDS itself. For this reason the question is still to be thoroughly discussed with Executive Branch officials and leaders of all political parties.

According to the PDS congressman's revelation, Planalto Palace intends to negotiate on this transition government during the congressional recess [December through March], with as much speed as possible. PDS leader Marchezan has said that an intermediary proposal is needed between immediately restoring direct presidential elections and keeping the indirect elections for another regular 6-year presidential term.

That intermediary proposal would be the extension of President Figueiredo's term or the election of a new president for a 2-3 year term, to reformulate the political party system, reestablish direct presidential elections, and, if possible, call for a Constituent Assembly.

Civilian Cabinet Chief Abreu has told PDS congressmen that the congressional recess will provide conditions for negotiations on this question with leaders of all political parties. Under the so-called transition government the political parties would prepare themselves for the next regular presidential election through direct balloting.

DISSIDENT FACTION APPEARS WITHIN RULING PARTY

PY241300 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] Brasilia -- A new dissident group that is to join the "Participation" group has appeared within the Social Democratic Party [PDS]. The group, which will vote against government proposals, is called the "Border Bloc," and is made up of the majority of deputies of the territories of Roraima and Amapa and of Rondonia State. In a statement released on 21 November, the group charged that it has been disregarded by both the local and federal governments.

The new dissident group let its voice be heard yesterday, when seven deputies voted against a proposal of the Constitution and Justice Congressional Committee, which suggested that the number of members of congressional investigative committees be increased. The group thus disregarded the guidelines set by the PDS leadership and strengthened the opposition stance against the proposal. In their statement, the members of the "Border Bloc" remarked that they are willing to resort to any acceptable congressional procedure. Thus far, the Border Bloc is made up of 10 federal deputies and 1 senator, Rondonia's Galvao Modesto.

NUCLEP BUILDS ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PRESSURE VESSEL

PY242225 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1902 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 22 Nov (EFE) -- This month, Brazil finished building the reactor pressure vessel for the Atucha II plant that Argentina ordered from Brazil 2 years ago.

Armando Cunha, the chief of the NUCLEP [NUCLEBRAS Heavy Equipment, Inc] communications office, today supplied EFE with this information. "NUCLEP is the factory of "NUCLEBRAS", the official organization that controls all nuclear activities in Brazil. Cunha noted that "the reactor pressure vessel for Atucha II is ready and it will be shipped to Argentina as soon as Argentine officials request it."

He added that NUCLEP is now participating in international bids, since it is one of the few factories in the world that produces heavy equipment for nuclear plants. He added that at present NUCLEP is participating in a bid in Egypt.

FURTHER ON MEETING OF FARC, PEACE COMMISSION

PA252055 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Nov 83 pp 1, 16

[By Alvaro Almanza]

[Text] The column of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) operating in the Puerto Berrio area has reiterated its intention to return to civilian life and organize a leftist political party. The announcement was made during a dialogue in the Puerto Berrio region last weekend between the faction's leaders and high peace commissioner Monsignor Jose Luis Serna Alzate; Antonio Duque Alvarez, presidential delegate for the mid Magdalena region; and Ernesto Maldonado, secretary general of the National Peace Commission.

The leaders of the revolutionary command said they had not kidnapped anyone lately, and they thought that the kidnappings reported in recent days were carried out by common criminals.

The unidentified leaders of the self-defense group submitted several demands to the government delegates that were not considered altogether impossible, according to Ernesto Maldonado, in a statement to this paper. He said the people of that region want the Army and police to take action to dismantle the Death to Kidnappers group (MAS).

The secretary general of the Peace Commission said the recent statement by Attorney General Carlos Jimenez about that criminal organization is true, as confirmed by their continued activities in the area.

Meanwhile, presidential delegate Antonio Duque Alvarez said that they had met with members of the FARC's self-defense group to find a solution to the problem in Cocorna, where at least 80 families, including peasants and farmers, have been evicted. Duque Alvarez confirmed plans to submit to President Belisario Betancur all requests made during the dialogue, but refused to reveal more details, saying "that is all I can tell you."

The peace delegates, upon returning to the capital, described the conditions prevailing in the region as satisfactory for a definite return to absolute peace and tranquillity.

ELN SETS CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE OF JAIME BETANCUR

PA251310 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Bogota -- The so-called Army of National Liberation [ELN] has just announced that it is holding Magistrate Jaime Betancur Cuartas as a political prisoner, and has demanded higher wages and improvement of economic conditions for the Colombian people as conditions for his release.

The ELN, in a two and one-half page document sent to the CARACOL Network a few minutes ago, explained that it had carried out the action to denounce the failure of President Betancur's program of changes and efforts to seek peace in the country. The following is in the final portion of the ELN document:

Dr Belisario Betancur: With regard to your brother's arrest as a political prisoner, you said that duty came before any personal considerations. We are offering you the opportunity to comply with both at the same time. Carry out your duty and, at the same time, ensure the welfare of the Colombian people, and your brother will be released. In order to carry this out, the ELN demands the following:

1. Increase of the minimum wage to 15,000 pesos for urban and rural sectors.

2. Participation of all labor unions and independent labor organizations in the National Labor Council, giving them a voice and voting rights.

3. Freezing of prices of staples for the remainder of your term in office.

4. Repeal of the latest rate increases for public services, retroactive to the date they were decreed.

5. Punishment, in the form of immediate dismissal, of the officials responsible for the rate increases.

6. Immediate release of political prisoners.

7. A pronouncement on missing persons, indemnification of their relatives, and punishment for those bearing responsibility.

8. Demilitarization of the peasant areas and allocation of budgetary funds for their rehabilitation.

9. Publication of all investigations made by the Attorney General's Office in connection with the paramilitary groups.

10. Immediate arrest of those accused of being members of MAS [Death To Kidnappers].

State Council on Kidnapping

PA251624 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Bogota -- The State Council has demanded respect for the personal safety of Magistrate Jaime Betancur Cuartas, and has exhorted his kidnappers to release him immediately. Magistrate Betancur was kidnapped 60 hours ago near the Catholic University in Bogota.

The document approved by the State Council reads: The State Council, concerned about the kidnapping of Dr Jaime Betancur Cuartas, distinguished member of this body, repudiates this abominable act, which violates the law and human dignity. It joins in the sorrow being felt by his family and the Colombian people, and demands respect for his personal safety and his immediate release. The Council also wishes to exalt the councilman as an eminent jurist, examplary husband and father, outstanding university professor, and respected citizen.

Castro Condemns Kidnapping

PA261932 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Bogota -- The message of Fidel Castro to President Belisario Betancur censuring the political motives in the kadnapping of the president's brother has stirred new expectations concerning the issue. The position Fidel Castro expressed in his message to President Betancur regarding the kidnapoing of the state councilman and brother of the chief of state, Jaime Betancur, motivated by political or revolutionary reasons, may move the captors to respect the life of the noted hostage and relese him. The message implies a total disavowal on the part of the communist leader of the use of political aims to carry out criminal acts such as the kidnapping of the president's brother.

The Cuban president's note will require a reply from President Belisario Betancur, not only to Fidel Castro, but also to his brother's kidnappers, in view of growing national expectations.

Meanwhile, the presidential palace reported having received no new damands by the kidnappers of State Councilman Jaime Betancur. It is unsure if there is any hope for settlement of the situation over the weekend.

The kidnapping of State Councilman Jaime Betancur Cuartas is a totally counterrevolutionary act, the leader of the Colombian Communist Party, Senator Gerardo Molina, said today. He expressed hopes that the subversive command of the Army of National Liberation, ELN, will take into account the position of the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro.

[Begin Molina recording] Commander Fidel Castro has interpreted the sentiment and thought of most Colombians by condemning the kidnapping of the brother of President Belisario Betancur. I fully endorse such an important declaration, and I hope the ELN leaders, taking into account the position of the president of Cuba, will adopt the decision expected by all of us to release Doctor Jaime Betancur.

Acts such as the kidnapping of this eminent jurist are totally counterrevolutionary because they only stir reactionary forces, which, unfortunately, also exist in this country. Let this be, then, a moment for patriotic reflection for the leaders of the ELN. [end recording]

Meanwhile, conservative senator and former Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra, referring to the message sent by Fidel Castro to the Colombian chief of state, said:

[Begin recording] I hope the significance of the message sent by Commander Fidel Castro to President Belisario Betancur will be grasped by the captors of Doctor Jaime Betancur Cuartas, as it was evidently conceived with the best intentions under the viewpoint of the revolutionary cause and firmly states that such a nature mars the ideals of those who think that by such acts they are bolstering political aims.

We hope for a happy outcome of this incident: the release of Doctor Jaime Betancur Cuartas. [end recording]

Havana Reports Kidnapping

PA252015 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Colombian authorities have said that they have no clues on the whereabouts of the Colombian president's brother, university professor Jaime Betancur, who was kidnapped supposedly by members of the self-styled National Liberation Army.

Several reports indicate that the abduction might be a publicity stunt, while others maintain that the rebels intend to use Jaime Betancur as a courier to deliver a note to President Belisario Betancur.

The guerrilla group has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the amnesty law that was enacted in November 1982.

Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the 19 April Movement, and other leading political and military organizations have been in contact with government officials, including the president himself, to discuss the national process to seek peace. The kidnapping has strengthened the position of those sectors opposed to President Betancur's peace efforts, who want him to reimpose the state of siege that was lifted shortly before the Betancur administration assumed power.

SCHWALB TO REMAIN; CABINET RESHUFFLE PLANNED

PY261627 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Peruvian Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana at the end of yesterday's cabinet meeting said that President Fernando Belaunde has reaffirmed his confidence in Schwalb's administration by asking him to stay on. The prime minister also announced that there will be a partial cabinet reshuffle by the end of the year as usual.

CHILEAN PURCHASE OF WARSHIPS FROM UK NOTED

PY251947 Paris AFP in Spanish 1542 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Lima, 25 Nov (AFP) -- It was reported in Lima today that Chile has acquired 1 aircraft carrier, 2 frigates, 1 cruiser, 24 planes, and 18 helicopters from Great Britain.

The Lima newspaper LA REPUBLICA, which today said that it had obtained the information from diplomatic sources there, recalled that the Chilean Government has denied that it had acquired the British aircraft carrier "Hermes."

LA REPUBLICA reported that Chile acquired the 23,900-ton aircraft carrier "Hermes", 2 Broadsword class 22 frigates, the 5,600-ton cruiser "Amprein", 24 vertical take-off Harrier planes, and 18 Sea King and Lynx MG 13 helicopters.

After stating that all the ships acquired participated in the Malvinas war along with the Harrier planes and Sea King and Lynx helicopters, the newspaper stressed that the frigates and the cruiser are equipped with Sea Dart missiles and MK32 antisubmarine torpedoes.

According to LA REPUBLICA, which is directed by Guillermo Thorndike, at least sixty Chilean Navy officers are being trained in Great Britain on how to operate the planes and helicopters.

The newspaper stated that another group of Marines are being taught how to operate the sophisticated equipment of the "Hermes", the acquisition of which has broken the naval balance in South America.

Purchase Causes Concern

PA270400 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Stories in the Lima newspaper LA REPUBLICA on the rearming of the Chilean Army have caused concern within official circles in Peru. According to the newspaper, Pinochet's dictatorship has purchased the carrier "Hermes," 1 cruiser, 2 rocket-launching frigates, antisubmarine warfare vessels, 24 Harrier vertical take-off aircraft, 18 helicopter gunships, and other armaments in Great Britain.

Peruvian Aeronautics Minister General Hernan Boularte has said that, if Chile is determined to rearm itself, then Peru cannot neglect its own security. Boularte added: Any arms buildup in the area disrupts the balance that must exist in the region and will force all neighboring countries to take counteracting measures.

Meanwhile, Miguel Schweitzer, foreign minister in the Chilean military regime, arrived in Tel Aviv today on an official 4-day visit to Israel intended to promote bilateral relations.

During his stay in Israel, the Chilean foreign minister will meet with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir and other officials. One of the objectives of the visit is to reactivate the Intergovernmental Mixed Commission, an organization that was created in 1972 and that produced a considerable increase in Chilean-Israeli exchange, which amounted to $21 million in 1981.

Minister on Chilean Arms

PY261655 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Whenever a Latin American country engages in an arms race, it upsets the balance which must prevail in the region and naturally forces the neighboring nations to implement measures necessary to preserve their security, according to Peruvian Aeronautics Minister Hernan Boluarte, who thus commented on the report about Chilean arms purchases.

[Begin Boluarte recording] We have learned this from the news media. This is something which has been going on for many months; ever since the Malvinas War we have been hearing about British military (?aid) to Chile. This is all that we know so far, but it gives rise to some concern because it upsets the balance which must prevail throughout the continent. [passage indistinct] I feel that a country must maintain a level of security compatible with its objectives. We seek to attack no one, we merely want to preserve our rights. [end recording]

HAVANA REPORTS MILITARY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

PA252042 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Peruvian media have highlighted the decision of the political-military command to conduct an investigation into the deaths of 32 peasants in Socos, Ayacucho Department.

The killings were initially attributed to Shining Path guerrillas, but Socos residents later reported that the murders had been committed by members of the Armed Forces. The Peruvian daily LA REPUBLICA states that the high command of the rebel army (as heard] sent a group of ranking officers to Ayacucho to take part in the investigations.

Other reports from Lima indicate that 31 farming cooperatives have begun to parcel out their land and sell their farm machinery and cattle because of the serious crisis they are experiencing. This move constitutes a setback in the development of the agricultural sector. Experts in Lima believe that the cooperatives, which were created through the Land Reform Law of 1969, are headed toward collapse.

Meanwhile, Peruvian Deputy Enrique Fernandez Chacon has estimated that Peru's budget deficit for 1983 will amount to approximately $1 billion, while inflation will reach 130 percent by the end of the year. Chacon believes that the deficit is caused by excessive military expenditures, and gave as an example the approval of a $500-million loan for the construction of a naval base in Chimbote.

LEADERS SEND LETTER TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL

PA252032 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] According to dispatches from Lima, Peru, leaders from various sectors have sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The letter asks that Perez de Cuellar use his high moral authority as leader of the international organization to ask the United States to be more respectful of peoples' sovereign rights, particularly in the Central American and Caribbean countries.

A Lima newspaper said that it is intolerable and very distasteful for the IMF to try to meddle in Peru's internal affairs by imposing various actions to be carried out by President Belaunde Terry's government. The newspaper added that by making these impositions the IMF is trying to meddle in Peru's internal policies by demanding political changes that will affect the interests of the workers and that will obstruct the agrarian reform law.

PERCOVICH DENIES BORDER INCIDENT WITH BOLIVIA

PY251717 Lima Cadena Nacional del Peru Television in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca today declared that there has been no clash with the Republican Guard along the Bolivian border and that Bolivians have not moved border markers into Peruvian territory away from the border line. As for the clash between Civil Guardsmen and Republican Guardsmen that occurred yesterday at the Justice Palace, Minister Percovich said that investigations are being conducted in order to determine responsibility.

HAVANA CITES APRISTA LEADER ON C.A. CRISIS

PA250434 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Alan Garcia, secretary general of the Aprista Party of Peru, has opposed any U.S. plan for an invasion of Nicaragua, and said if the invasion did occur the struggle would be long and terrible and many Yankees would die. During a news conference for the foreign press in Lima, the Aprista leader stressed the need for establishing negotiations to peacefully resolve the crisis in Central America.

ALLEGED ECUADORAN SPY DETAINED IN CHICLAYO

PY251710 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2012 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Lima, 24 Nov (EFE) -- It was reported in Lima today that an alleged Ecuadoran spy was detained in Chiclayo, northern Peru, while he was engaged in making drawings and taking pictures of an Army barracks. The alleged spy was identified as Juan Jose Ontaneda, who had entered Peru on 17 November.

The Ecuadoran citizen, age 21, who was on a rooftop when he was detained by soldiers, was taking pictures and making notes on the "Leoncio Prado" barracks, headquarters of the Peruvian 7th Armored Division. When he was detained, Ontaneda said that he was a banana merchant, that he was unaware that the "Leoncio Prado" was a barracks, and that he thought it was a penitentiary. Ontaneda was placed at the disposal of the Peruvian state security services.

BRIEFS

UK, YUGOSLAV AMBASSADORS' CREDENTIALS -- UK ambassador to Peru, John William Richmond Shakespeare, and Yugoslav ambassador to Peru, Alija Vejzagic, have presented their credentials to President Fernando Belaunde Terry at Government House. [Text] [Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0638 GMT 17 Nov 83 PY]

POLITICAL MEETINGS STAGED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PY272140 Paris AFP in Spanish 2049 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Nov (AFP) -- Several hundred thousand Uruguayans summoned by the political parties and labor, student, and social organizations today gathered in Montevideo to demand a democracy without conditions. The main part of the meeting started at 2030 GMT near a monument in downtown Montevideo.

Similar meetings were staged in nine departments in the country's interior. The peak moment of these meetings in the interior as well as in Montevideo will be marked by the reading of a joint declaration and the singing of the national anthem.

400,000 Attend in Montevideo

PY280116 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2342 GMT 27 Nov 83

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Nov (EFE) -- During the largest political demonstration ever held in Uruguay, the Uruguayan people today demanded their freedom and voiced their opposition to conditional democracy.

According to the organizers of the rally, some 400,000 people attended the meeting called for by the Uruguayan political parties and demanded that the military immediately end the "dictatorship" and "return to their barracks without setting any conditions" since the "people have never asked for their protection."

The meeting took place at the foot of the obelisk in memory of the heros of 1930 at the "Battle y Ordonez" Park downtown. Starting in the early afternoon, mass groups of people left neighborhoods in Montevideo -- which has a population of 1.5 million -- and headed for the gathering. Moderate estimates point out that more than 400,000 people attended the rally, which is quite possible, since it is difficult to say how many people were really there due to the number of streets which lead to this strategic point in the capital.

Uruguayan actor Alberto Candeau read an energetic communique issued by the political parties which lasted 45 minutes. The communique clearly requests the military "to leave" since "they are alone."

The proscribed political parties, labor unions, relatives of missing and tortured persons, Catholics, atheists, rich, and poor joined the meeting called for by the legally established political parties.

There were only some 200 policemen at the site directing traffic and organizing the parking of vehicles. In compliance with the agreement reached by the political parties with the police after the meeting was authorized, the security forces refrained from being on the streets.

All the members of the political parties' leaderships, the leaders of the proscribed left, and the wife of General Liber Seregni, the presidential candidate for the "Broad Front" who has been under arrest for 9 years, were on the podium.

Most Uruguayan radio and televison stations broadcast details of the meeting.

Before Candeau started reading the communique, messages of support for the meeting from foreign politicians and labor union leaders were read. Among them was a message from Lech Walesa.

The Uruguayans who attended the rally were hoarse from shouting all sorts of slogans against the government and the support received led the demonstrators to defy the military with clenched fists and to make the sign of victory.

At the end of the meetings, the group dispersed without any incidents being reported so far.

The Uruguayan's demand for freedom was marked by slogans stating "the military dictatorship is going to end," "down with the tyrants" "long live democracy," and "let them go since nobody called them," which were shouted as the columns of people left the rally.

Station Reports on Rally

PY280144 [Editorial Report] Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 28 November reported that "this afternoon the political parties made a number of requests that will lead to the return of democracy during a mass rally held in a completely normal atmosphere near the obelisk and Battle Park."

"According to media sources more than 400,000 persons answered the summons to attend the meeting. Almost all sectors of Uruguayan society were represented at this unprecedented gathering."

The report pointed out that politicians of the various parties met for the first time in many years on the podium set up for the rally and that the various delegations that the various delegations that attended the meeting appeared at the site early this afternoon carrying Uruguayan flags, as had been requested. After the national anthem was sung, Actor Alberto Candeau read a declaration that voiced the views of the three legally established parties on the nation's decision to resume the right to vote in November 1984. The document demanded freedom of the press, a good educational program, and a great autonomous university. Moreover, it demanded that public employees be allowed to preserve their jobs and insisted on the freedom of labor unions for the benefit of progress and improvement of living standards. Regarding the Armed Forces, the political parties stated that they should defend sovereignty, the Constitution, and territorial integrity. "The declaration emphasized that the Armed Forces should withdraw to their barracks and forget their protectionist missions, which nobody asked them to perform."

The report added that the declaration also "demanded the rehabilitation of political parties and the freeing of all those persons who have been arrested because of their views. It voiced its repudiation of all forms of violence and pointed out that the de facto government is exhausted. The political parties noted their isolation within the Uruguayan society as well as on the international level."

Alberto Candeau started reading the declaration by reviewing Uruguay's history over the past few years and reiterating that the political parties are willing to resume talks as soon as the conditions requested on 8 October are fulfilled." The El Espectador report then carried an approximately 16-minute recording of the highlights of the declaration read by Alberto Candeau, who read it in an energetic voice and was sporadically interrupted by the crowd's applause and chanting.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATTEND ALFONSIN INAUGURATION

PY251955 Paris AFP in Spanish 1330 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 25 Nov (AFP) -- It was officially announced today that Uruguay will be represented at the inauguration of Argentine President-elect Raul Alfonsin by its Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso. Special guests, among them several heads of state from America and Europe, will be attending the inauguration, which is to take place 10 December.

The foreign minister, who confirmed his designation as the official Uruguayan representative to the press, noted that the new era into which Argentina is being ushered with the government headed by Alfonsin is a superb demonstration of civic awareness and truly democratic conviction.

FIRST CIVILIAN MUNICIPAL INTENDANT INSTALLED

PY251939 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The first civilian municipal intendant in Uruguay's interior was installed today. Architect (Walter Vermisi), a former intendant and councilor of state, was reinstated by the interior minister as Paysandu's municipal intendant. In this regard, we will now link with Radio Paysandu, a member of our network.

[Begin correspondent recording] This morning Paysandu's new intendant, architect (Walter M. Vermisi), was installed. Through a decree issued by the executive branch, architect (Vermisi), a former councilor of state and now executive secretary for the Colorado Party in Paysandu Department, was installed by Interior Minister Brigadier General Hugo Linares Brum. [end recording]

ALLEGED APPEARANCE OF DEATH SQUADS REPORTED

PY260200 Paris AFP in Spanish 1546 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Montevideo, 25 Nov (AFP) -- The weekly CORREO DE LOS VIERNES reported here today the alleged appearance of death squads and the murder of a veterinary student who had been beaten to death. The murder had not been previously reported.

Walter Nessi, the author of the article, based his charge on the appearance of leaflets in the houses of members of the opposition to the Uruguayan Government. The leaflets reported the creation of a secret paramilitary command for nationalistic action. Nessi noted that the leaflets indicated that arms would be used to fight opportunists who take advantage of the Armed Forces' inability to cope with them and who launch attacks, aggressions, and threats during demonstrations staged by the people.

Nessi remarked that Uruguay has gone through difficult and troubled times, yet never had to face the cruelty of coldly premeditated unscrupulous murder, "as in the case of Brazil's sinister death squad and Argentina's criminal Triple A actions." He also noted that is was revealing that the Uruguayan Anti-Communist League (LDA), an extreme right organization, stated in regard to Central America that the sustained actions of international communism will not be stopped with peace declarations.

After quoting Jair Krichke, the head of Brazil's justice and human rights movement, on the entry into Uruguay of arms for paramilitary groups, Nessi demanded from the authorities an investigation into and information on his charge.

PRESIDENT ON BOLIVARIAN MEETING, OTHER TOPICS

PA250429 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] President Ricardo de la Espriella has said that he will participate in the meeting of leaders of Bolivarian countries to be held in Colombia. The president made brief remarks to this station:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Will you go to the meeting of the Bolivarian presidents in Colombia?

[De la Espriella] If the meeting is held there, I will go to Colombia soon. I have been invited by President Betancur, and I must not fail him.

[Reporter] Will you attend Raul Alfonsin's inauguration in Argentina?

[De la Espriella] That would be rather difficult because we have so much work here in Panama. We need every possible hour to devote to the country, so it is hard to travel very much.

[Reporter] Does the visit of General Noriega and Government Minister Ozores to Costa Rica have anything to do with the Contadora Group efforts?

[De la Espriella] Yes, definitely. Remember that Costa Rica has declared itself neutral. Costa Rica is vital for Panama's interests and for peace in the region. Consequently, all this is within the Contadora efforts. [end recording]

NORIEGA ON ELECTIONS, NICARAGUAN EMIGRANTS

PA252135 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] A few minutes ago an interesting press conference was held at the National Guard headquarters. Present were General Manuel Antonio Noriega; Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of the General Staff; Carlos Ozores, acting vice president; other ranking National Guard officers; the director of the Immigration Department; and the general director of health.

At the press conference, newsmen were provided with the details of what was described as an "immigration bomb" from Nicaragua.

For his part, Gen Noriega reiterated that the 1984 elections will be held on the scheduled date, as provided for in the Constitution. The following is an excerpt of the press conference at the National Guard headquarters, which ended a few minutes ago:

[Begin Noriega recording in progress] ...according to how the events develop. President Monge himself was concerned and worried, and told us so. This press conference is for an eminently civic purpose. We are accustomed to holding press conferences or chats with newsmen prompted by political anxieties and other topical concerns which are common to all of us.

However, today it is necessary for us to analyze and outline to you the factors that, under particular circumstances, might provoke a situation that would affect private enterprise, the health of the Panamanian people, the labor force, and national security as regards the immigration and police departments, which are part of the National Defense Force.

At the outset, we presented Dr Ozores, the government and justice minister who is acting vice president/.. [end recording]

Well, dear viewers, this was part of the press conference held at the National Guard headquarters, where the Panamanian military authorities and the Panamanian Government expressed concern regarding what they described as an immigration bomb coming from Nicaragua: Nicaraguan citizens fleeing their country who have been entering Costa Rica and who will also, presumably, be entering Panamanian territory.

Regarding this, the Panamanian military authorities said that steps are being taken to prevent these Nicaraguan refugees from entering or immigrating to Panama. Since they are afflicted with illnesses and are affected by problems inherent to Nicaragua, they would create more problems here in Panama.

Discusses C.A. Situation, Canal

PA261839 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 26 Nov 83 pp 1 A, 8 A

[Report on interview with General Manuel Antonio Noriega by Roberto Rodriguez and Reynaldo Labasitde, in Panama City on 25 November]

[Excerpt] "Our Constitution states that the steps for declaring war and for sending troops for any warlike purpose must be approved by the National Assembly." This was General Noriega's reply when asked if Panama would participate directly or indirectly in any plans to invade Nicaragua.

Noriega said: "We are constitutionalist military men and will act as such." He warned, however, that if Nicaragua or any other Central American country "rejects" the Contadora Group, military organizations ready for "warlike confrontations" will appear.

Peace Is an Equation

Noriega said: "Defense means development, development means peace, and peace is a mathematical equation." He stressed that if means are not sought to attain peace, to that same extent military organizations will appear over and above other methods in the quest for peace.

The Canal Can Be Ours Before the Year 2000

Noriega also said that the Panama Canal's security does not depend on the presence of foreign troops, because the canal cannot be defended from here. He said that the canal is not strategically or geopolitically important to the United States. Therefore, the professionalism of Panamanian troops in the joint defense of the canal would mean that Panama would assume total control of the canal before the year 2000.

There Is a Need for the Existence of the National Defense Forces

He said that the "need for the existence of the National Defense Forces" can be seen in the increasing evidence that the security of the canal and its installations must be a joint operation and is the responsibility of all Panamanians. The canal's administration by Panamanians depends on the professionalism displayed by the National Defense Forces.

We Are Completely Responsible

He said: "Violence now utilizes a new type of terrorism. Panama has protected its security through dialogue, proving that we are completely responsible."

We Are Here To Work

Noriega stressed that the National Defense Forces were not created to trample on the people, to provoke conflicts, or to divide the Panamanian family, but to work alongside them.

ECUADOR'S ROLDOS STOPS OVER EN ROUTE HOME

PA270244 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Ecuadoran Vice President Leon Roldos Aguilera met with Carlos Ozores Typaldos, Panamanian acting vice president and government minister, in the diplomatic room at the Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport last night. Roldos arrived in Panama from Managua, Nicaragua, and was met at the airport by Acting Vice President Ozores Typaldos, protocol officials, and Ecuadoran embassy personnel. The vice presidents talked about bilateral relations and the peace process being carried out by the Contadora Group. Vice President Roldos spend the night in Panama City and left today for Ecuador.

HAVANA NOTES TANA CHARGES AGAINST REAGAN

PA272119 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The Panama branch of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America [TANA] has strongly condemned U.S. President Ronald Reagan, whom it considers the worst enemy of all the world's peoples.

A detailed list of the crimes of which Reagan is accused includes coercion, imperialism, aggression, acts of intervention, colonialism, and discrimination. Also included in the list are U.S. military bases, support for genocidal regimes, the employment of mercenaries, genocide, common criminality in the international sphere, the use of pseudolegal regional mechanisms, and scorn for public opinion.

Before hundreds of representatives of over 30 Panamanian organizations and guests, the accusers -- Raul Leis from Panama, (Gerald Pierre Charles) from Haiti, Miguel D'Estefano from Cuba, and Peter Marqueti from the United States -- outlined the criminal record of the incumbent North American Chief Executive with irrefutable evidence.

Some of the charges leveled against Reagan include the murder of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in Lebanon, the invasion of the small Caribbean island of Grenada, Washington's deployment in Central America, the U.S. policy of blackmail, and the pressures and impositions on peoples.

BRIEFS

WORKERS' PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE -- Carlos del Cid, legal adviser of the People's Party, has accepted the National Federation of Panamanian Workers' proposal that he be a presidential candidate for the elections scheduled for May 1984. [Summary] [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Nov 83 p 1 PA]

PALA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE -- Alberto Velasquez, press and propaganda secretary of the Labor Party, PALA, has reported that the party -- duly authorized by its National Executive Council and National Directorate -- officially proclaimed yesterday the presidential candidacy of party leader Carlos Eleta Almaran for the 1984 elections. [Excerpt] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 21 Nov 83 pp 1, 19 PA]

COSTA RICA

'PRIVATE PARAMILITARY GROUPS' REPORTED FORMING

Monge Rejects Formation

PA260427 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has made a call to the citizens to stay calm and maintain strength in response to the war-like events that are agitating other countries in the Central American region. We reaffirm that our democracy does not and will not have an army, thus maintaining our serenity during these difficult times for the Central American nations.

Regarding the possible organization of private groups with the objective of defending the country with arms, President Monge said that the Constitution must be enforced at all times and under any circumstances. The government cannot authorize any group of citizens to organize militias, armed groups, or private armies; its duty is to enforce the laws, President Monge said.

Solano Admits Presence

PA271458 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The security minister has admitted the existence of private paramilitary groups [in Costa Rica]. Security Minister Angel Edmundo Calderon said last week during a news conference that he has received reports of the existence of a private paramilitary group operating in [name indistinct] canton and calling itself [words indistinct]. It has been recruiting young men in the area to fight the Sandinist government, but we are working hard to dismantle this organization, Solano Calderon said.

Vice President's Support Claimed

PA280300 Paris AFP in Spanish 2348 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] San Jose, 27 Nov (AFP) -- Local news sources charged today that "ultraright and ultraleft" paramilitary groups are present in northern Costa Rica, near the border with Nicaragua. The bands, consisting of Costa Ricans, are training in the cantons of San Carlos, Los Chiles, Guatuso, and Sarapiqui. One of the groups is being led by a Vietnam veteran, according to information obtained by the conservative newspaper LA NACION from "judicial officials who did not want to be identified."

Colonel Oscar Vidal, leader of the Civil Guard, claimed that they are investigating the reports and asserted that they "will not allow any armed groups but those belonging to the Security Ministry to operate." Nonetheless, LA NACION today published a statement by lawyer Kenet Salas, who leads one of the anticommunist groups that operate in the San Carlos canton, in which he warned that "if the government does not want to stop the clandestine communist groups, we will have to do it."

[Words indistinct] that his organization, called the Northern (?Military) Democratic Organization [Associacion Democratica (?Militar) Norte], has more than 150 members, "who are ready to defend the democratic system at any cost." They reportedly have the support of Second Vice President Armando Arauz, who is also acting foreign minister.

[Word indistinct] Still unconfirmed reports about leftist groups point out that they are located in Los Chiles and Sarapiqui, "ready to cleanse the border region" of all of the anti-Sandinists who follow Eden Pastora, [words indistinct] the region.

Havana on Monge's Opposition

PA272046 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has denied any official support for paramilitary groups that are trying to create an armed contingent in Costa Rica for aggressive use against Nicaragua. According to Costa Rican media, a mass recruiting drive for such groups was carried out recently in the northern area of the country, bordering Nicaragua. Monge stressed that his government cannot authorize any private group to organize militias, armed actions, or private armies. However, the rightist paramilitary organizations have declared publicly that they will carry out a fund drive to continue training their recruits.

VICE PRESIDENT TO BE INTERIM FOREIGN MINISTER

PA260405 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar has been appointed interim foreign minister effective 1 December, according a decree issued this afternoon by President Luis Alberto Monge. Arauz will replace Volio Jinenez, who resigned from this position effective 30 November, saying that interference and pressure from sectors that want to give the foreign policy a different focus forced him to make this decision.

The interim foreign minister will not be replaced until President Monge Alvarez appoints the Volio Jimenez' successor, which will apparently take place at the end of January. Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar said this afternoon that there will be no change in Costa Rica's foreign policy, as President Luis Alberto Monge has assured him. My appointment is temporary because the president has asked me to take over the Foreign Ministry for a time while he decides on the man who will permanently replace Volio, Arauz pointed out. In this regard, he was clear in saying that the government maintains its upright position regarding its foreign policy in defense of democracy and liberty, and reaffirms its neutrality in all war-like conflicts.

EL SALVADOR

MILITARY RESHUFFLE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

PA261550 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1527 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The chief of the General Staff, three rapid deployment battalion commanders, and the military commanders of seven departments have been replaced in the past few hours in El Salvador, according to an official report. These military changes, which are the most important to occur simultaneously for many months, came after political leaders and President Alvaro Magana denounced the existence of strong rumors of a possible coup d'etat.

Colonel Adolfo Blandon will now be chief of the General Staff, replacing Colonel Mario Adalberto Reyes Mena, who was assigned to a post abroad. Lieutenant Colonel Miguel Antonio Mendez, who until now was commander of the "Ramon Belloso" Rapid Deployment Battalion, which was trained in the United States, will occupy a post in the General Staff. He has been replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce.

The commanders of the "Atlacatl" and "General Manuel Jose Arce" battalions have also been replaced. In addition, the commanders of the Cabanas, Chalatenango, San Miguel, Sonsonate, Usulutan, La Union, and San Vicente Departments have also been replaced.

UNGO STATEMENT ON FROZEN TALKS REPORTED

PA252114 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1908 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Managua. 25 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- FDR President Guillermo Ungo has said that the Salvadoran Peace Commission and U.S. Special Envoy Richard Stone "have frozen the negotiations with the FDR-FMLN." In a communique issued here today, Ungo said that the stalemate in the negotiations "has resulted in a strengthening of the military option, but the FDR-FMLN have not shut themselves off from the possibility of holding talks."

The leftists' communique added that the Salvadoran Peace Commission and President Reagan's special envoy Richard Stone have never answered their proposals. The FDR and the FMLN have proposed the formation of a broad-based government leading to democratic elections.

Guillermo Ungo's communique stated that the rebel fronts offered that the Peace Commission and Ambassador Stone hold talks without any "restrictions" and with an open agenda, to be held in San Salvador either at the Apostolic Nunciature or at one of the embassies that had previously been approached "such as the Spanish, Panamanian, or Colombian Embassies." According to the FDR president, the answer of Francisco Quinones, president of the Peace Commission, was to break off the dialogue, conditioning its renewal on the participation of the rebels in the elections that have been scheduled for March 1984.

The rebels had previously stated that they would not participate in the elections because "they are not the solution to the Salvadoran conflict, and because the minimum political conditions to hold valid elections are not present."

Guillermo Ungo said that President Reagan's special envoy never answered the FMLN-FDR proposals, nor did he say if he was willing to continue the talks as had been agreed. He added that through indirect sources the rebels found out that the United States considered the demands of forming a broad-based government excessive. The leftists say that the United States believes that "we are losing the war and that their political plan is viable." The Salvadoran leader said that the Reagan administration is willing to intervene in El Salvador, but that despite this the Salvadoran rebels insist on finding "a negotiated political solution to the conflict."

CLASHES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, REBEL FORCES REPORTED

Rebels Dislodged From Corinto

PA252155 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Nov 83 pp 2, 87

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] has reported that several commanders of the People's Revolutionary Army, ERP, were wounded when the town of Corinto was recovered the day before yesterday by the Arce Battalion.

According to the report issued yesterday, by COPREFA, residents of Corinto, in Morazan Department, said they saw the terrorists leaving Corinto carrying 25 bodies of their comrades and some ERP commanders who were wounded in the fighting with the Arce Battalion. Asked why they thought some of the wounded were ERP commanders, the townspeople replied that, during the terrorist occupation of Corinto, they saw that they were the ones who gave the orders and who identified themselves as commanders, without making known their names or pseudonyms.

The report added that during the "seizure" of the town in recent days, the FMLN terrorists had posted lookouts throughout the town to hinder the arrival of the Armed Forces and had mined the outskirts to prevent the passage of the troops. But despite those actions, the attack by the Arce Battalion was well synchronized and took them by surprise. The troops first overran the defensive positions in Varilla Negra and in Cerro Babilonia, which were the main sites of the action. No reports have been issued on the number of weapons seized, but it has been indicated that in their flight the extremists left many high-caliber rifles, including some FAL, G3 and Galil rifles; ammunition; explosive devices; cartridges; and so forth.

After dislodging the terrorists from Corinto, members of the Arce Battalion and other units in the region searched the area for subversive hideouts in order to eradicate them completely from that area of Morazan Department. The number of Armed Forces casualties has not been reported.

FMLN Reports Victories, Advances

PA251648 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Your attention, Salvadoran people: The following are the victories our people have won in only 3 weeks of the victorious "Yankees, Out of Grenada and Central America" campaign. In only 3 weeks we have seized 473 weapons from the puppet Army. This includes 432 rifles sent by the Yankee warmongers, 9 machineguns, 10 M-79 grenade launchers, 6 90-mm cannon, 3 60-mm mortars, 2 81-mm mortars, 2 120-mm mortar and 12 PRC-77 military communication radios.

The enemy's Army, with its gringo advisers and tactics, has lost 266 frontline men in only 21 days of fighting. In addition, 304 soldiers have laid down their Yankee rifles and military equipment when faced with our victorious revolutionary battalions, and have accepted our generous policy that a soldier who surrenders is a soldier whose life will be respected. These are important victories scored by our people and their vanguard, the FMLN, as part of the "Yankees, Our of Grenada and Central America" campaign.

Skirmishes in San Vicente

PA262259 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Army units supported by armored equipment have engaged in constant patrols since early this morning on a stretch of the Inter-American highway in San Vicente Department, particularly in the area of San Felipe, where some light skirmishes took place this morning. Army units surprised rebels who were trying to stop traffic on the most important route to eastern El Salvador. Following limited encounters, order was again completely restored and normal traffic resumed both to and from the country's east, according to military sources in the city of San Vicente.

Meanwhile, small counterinsurgency operations are continuing in six departments: Usulutan, Morazan, La Union, Cuscatlan, Cabanas, and Chalatenango. Military reports indicate that these actions are intended to detect and to destroy rebel camps and to restore order in various small villages where military intelligence reports the presence of rebels.

Finally, security and guard operations have been doubled in San Miguel in anticipation of rebel disruptions on the occasion of the Virgin of Peace festivities, particularly as the San Miguel carnival ends these festivities today. The reinforced vigilance is intended to provide security both for public transport vehicles and for the thousands of tourists who have begun to arrive in the eastern city to see the end of what they view as the greatest festival in El Salvador.

Venceremos on Recent Actions

PA271931 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The following are military reports received by Radio Venceremos: Our companeros on the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front report that on 24 November the Juan Ramon Belloso and (Tehuacan) Battalions and cavalry forces entered the area of San Pedro, San Vicente Department. At 1500 the (Tehuacan) Battalion clashed with our vanguard units in La Haciendita canton. The enemy Cazadores Battalion [as heard] suffered four casualties, two dead and two wounded, who had to be evacuated via helicopter.

From the Feliciano Ama Western Front, Santa Ana, our companeros report that on 25 November guerrilla squads harassed a civil defense patrol in La Planta village, Coatepeque jurisdiction. The action lasted 15 minutes, but the number of paramilitary casualties is not known. Other guerrilla squads built a barricade and carried out propaganda activities in San Felipe canton on the road between Santa Ana and San Pablo Tacachico.

Prisoners Said Injured by Bombing

PA271954 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Seventeen soldiers captured by the FMLN have been injured during a bombing by the dictatorship's Air Force over controlled areas in Morazan. We report that on the morning of 25 November two Salvadoran Air Force A-37's and one Fuga bombed an area under FMLN control in Morazan Department. Soldiers of the puppet Army who had been taken prisoners of war during several clashes were being held in this area. Seventeen soldiers were injured during the bombing, five seriously. The five seriously injured prisoners were transferred by our forces to San Francisco Gotera for medical treatment. The names of the five who were seriously wounded during the bombing by the Salvadoran Air Force are: Elmer Noel Benavides Rodriguez, Jose Ovidio Florez Fuentes, Jose Antonio Chica, Jose Romeo Trevino, and Julio Isaias Escobar Turcios.

FMLN Reports Successful Ambush

PA280330 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Attention, heroic people of El Salvador. Our guerrilla columns continue to advance in Chalatenango. An enemy army patrol from the (Sierpes) Battalion in Chalatenango was ambushed on 24 November by our fighting guerrilla columns.

This successful action was carried out on the road leading to the department capital, at the turnoff to El Cobano. The enemy suffered five casualties, including two corporals and an unidentified officer, all of whom were seriously wounded. After carrying out their objective, our forces withdrew from the scene of the action in an orderly fashion, without suffering any single casualties. Our entire population is determined to meet the Yankee intervention! Greetings, fighting companeros of the heroic department of Chalatenango! Down with the dictatorship and imperialist intervention! The people's unity for victory!

Army Attacks Torola

PA280355 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Adalberto Cruz, from the garrison at San Francisco Gotera, has committed a cowardly and genocidal act. He ordered an indiscriminate cannon attack this Sunday afternoon on several parts of Morazan Department. Lt Col Cruz personally gave the order from San Isidro to fire on the town of Torola, killing a girl and wounding several people in the town.

We will now read the names of the people wounded in Torola in the attack ordered by Lt Col Cruz. The victims are Virginia Martinez, 87 years old; Juan Pablo Argueta, 70 years old; Rosario Argueta, 83 years old; Dolores Hernandez, 23 years old; Geovanni de Jesus del Cid, 9 months old; Corina Argueta, 20 years old; and Rodrigo Argueta, 53 years old. Thse are the names of the victims produced in the artillery attack on the town of Torola.

This is not the first time that Lt Col Cruz' cowardice and impotence has caused him to commit this kind of crime against children, women, and the elderly living in defenseless towns. We recall that some months ago Lt Col Cruz ordered a similar criminal attack on the town of Jocoaitique. We are told that the people of Torola will stage a demonstration during the funeral for the girl who was killed by Lot Col Cruz and will reject the genocidal officer from San Francisco Gotera.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE DENIES COUP RUMORS

PA252151 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran yesterday said that the rumors that have been circulating recently on the possibility of a coup d'etat during the absence of General Mejia Victores are ill-intentioned tales that seek to confuse people abroad. He noted that as soon as it was officially announced that Mejia Victores would go to Argentina to participate in the presidential inauguration there in December, there were sectors that became interested in confusing the people, not locally but internationally.

He further stated that today, more than ever, the Army is determined to return democratic institutions to Guatemala, and proof of this are both the actions taken in the past few months and the firm decision to hold general elections in 1985. In addition, Mejia Victores' trip abroad reflects the trust placed in the Armed Forces and the people. Therefore, he added, the trust in the people and the cabinet is firm. The foreign minister said that the spreading rumors of an alleged coup during Mejia Victores' absence is aimed at maintaining a bad image for Guatemala abroad.

CALL FOR ELECTIONS REPORTEDLY MOVED FORWARD

PA260205 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2112 GMT 25 Nov 83

[By Carlos Rodolfo Mobil]

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- While rumors of a possible coup d'etat grow in Guatemala, General Oscar Mejia Victores' military government is attempting to advance the call to elections to form a National Constituent Assembly. A Supreme Electoral Tribunal source today reported that the law to call the elections will be ready in a week.

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal magistrates agree with the advancement, as proposed by the chief of state. Sources close to Government Palace told ACAN-EFE that the call will be made within the next 2 months.

Guatemalan political observers agree that the "lack of stability" of the current regime and the growing rumors of another coup d'etat have led the government to advance the call to elections previously scheduled to be announced on 31 March 1984.

The rumors became stronger this week when the Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) alerted the people regarding this possibility. "We believe that another coup d'etat would be tragic for the country," the DCG said, adding that it had asked the Army to remain united to lead the democratic process.

According to Carlos Rafael Soto, secretary of the political committee of the "New Force" ["Fuerza Nueva"] (Social Democrat), "a change of chief of state would only reveal the detestable personal and group ambitions among certain sectors of the Army."

According to the social democratic leader, the decision made by the chief of state in appointing the chief of the Army General Staff to replace him during his upcoming trip to Argentina on 8 December, clearly shows "how militarized the country really is." "This is not an Army or an Army base; Guatemala is a country," he added.

Magistrate Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva said "there is no real excuse for a coup d'etat, but should it happen it would be unfortunate for the country because the political process for the return to constitutionality would be affected."

Soto, a social democrat, stated that the tragedy does not lie in the fact that a new coup d'etat would break the process of democratization, but "what is tragic" is the continuation of a division between civilians and the military since the civilians "are complete outsiders in the matter."

Representatives for the four traditional political parties agree with advancing the call to elections. Meanwhile, the more than 20 committees of the political parties in formation have expressed their agreement with the official schedule of elections for a Constituent Assembly in July 1984 and presidential elections in 1985.

HONDURAS

NAVY CAPTURES TWO NICARAGUAN FISHING VESSELS

PA260352 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 2

[Excerpts] Two Nicaraguan vessels with six crewmen each were captured as they were about to dock at Isla de la Bahia, Capt Freddy Funes Duple, chief of FUSEP's [Public Security Force] First Region in this jurisdiction, reported from La Ceiba. According to the source, the two vessels were first spotted in the Puerto Lempira jurisdictional waters, in Gracias a Dios Department, by a coast guard patrol of the Honduran naval force. The patrol craft's name is "Honduras."

The fishing craft, one of which was called "Copernico" and the other "Bromar 8," had capacities of 80 and 63 tons, respectively. Each carried six crewmen. According to their crews, they are fishermen. According to the police report, the two Nicaraguan vessels were headed for the Puerto Cortes naval base. The names of their crewmen were not disclosed.

NICARAGUA RELEASES 13 DETAINED SEAMEN

PA260417 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 2

[Excerpts] After the Sandinist government was paid $7,000, 14,000 lempiras, 13 Honduran seamen who had been captured by the Sandinist army, along with the Honduran craft "Miss French Harbor," returned to the country yesterday.

The Honduran seamen arrived at Honduras yesterday morning on a regular SAHSA airline flight and reported to state officials that the Nicaraguan authorities demand the payment of another $40,000, 80,000 lempiras, before handing over the vessel. This amount is supposed to be paid by the vessel's owner. It was also reported that the Nicaraguan Government is holding another Honduran vessel, the "Ivanesa."

NICARAGUA

BORGE ON REMOVAL OF ADVISERS, U.S. 'AGGRESSION'

PA251545 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Nicaragua is willing to remove its military advisers immediately if Honduras and El Salvador simultaneously remove their U.S. advisers. Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez, minister of the interior, made this statement last night upon closing the third scientific drive and the first U.S.-Nicaraguan medical science colloquium.

Commander Borge urged Honduras, El Salvador, and the United States to implement immediately the agreements on arms reduction in Central America and on control of arms trafficking. Those governments have the last word, the Sandinist leader asserted. He added that Nicaragua is willing to negotiate in order to guarantee stability and peace in Central America. We can negotiate as long as the principles of the revolution are not violated, Commander Borge stated.

Science must be an instrument for life and construction, Commander Borge commented at the event, which was held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center. Commander Borge thus referred to the U.S. Congress' recent rejection of the plan to finance scientific experiments for chemical warfare, apparently as a concession after allocating $24 million to the CIA so it can continue murdering Nicaraguans.

Later, Commander Borge denounced the new variation in the U.S. plans of aggression against Nicaragua. U.S. and Honduran troops and former Somozist guardsmen are concentrating on Honduran territory, near our country's border, to launch an interventionist offense along the Atlantic coast in an attempt to establish a beachhead, and then will request the support of pro-U.S. regimes for a larger scale invasion of Nicaragua.

An excerpt of Commander Borge's statement at the closing of this scientific event follows:

[Begin recording] It is possible that based on the hoax about the provocations, and taking advantage of a campaign against Nicaragua, (?skillfully) designed in the United States to accuse Nicaragua of engaging in human rights violations in northern Zelaya, counterrevolutionary forces may be launched into that region, accompanied by Honduran forces and backed by U.S. logistical and technical support, with the claim that the allegedly persecuted Miskitos must be saved. They may be thinking along these lines.

One by one their pretexts have been removed. They can no longer say that the Americans are in danger and that the Marines are coming to save them, because the Americans themselves have told the world that they feel happy, satisfied, and safe here in Nicaragua. So what else can they plan? Perhaps they are organizing a larger scale Bay of Pigs, this time with more brazen and brutal support. The concentration of U.S. and Honduran troops and of counterrevolutionary forces along the Honduran border, in the direction of northern Zelaya, is suspicious. We therefore denounce this dangerous variation of the plan of aggression, which may seek to divide the country, creating, in fact, a new border. [end recording]

Commander Borge also charged that there are criminal plans to murder Managua Archbishop Monsignor Miguel Obando in an effort to stir up conflicts against the revolutionary government.

[Begin Borge recording] We are receiving increasingly alarming reports that there plans to kill several religious leaders and representatives of the parties that oppose the Nicaraguan revolution, and to blame us for these crimes. We have received reports that the plan to kill Archbishop Obando has been discussed in Miami and, in particular, in Honduras. The purpose would be to rouse the people against the revolution. The assassins, who have not hesitated to fire machineguns at defenseless peasants, to rape women, and to kill priests, are capable of all this. They are the same ones who killed Pedro Joaquin Chamorro; they are the same ones who initially sought to blame this crime on the FSLN. They handle everything on the basis of deception and are capable of committing the worst crimes. [end recording]

Havana Notes Borge Statement

PA252059 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has spoken in Managua about the various forms of aggression that the United States has prepared for Nicaragua. Borge said that Washington is organizing another Bay of Pigs, only this time U.S. support will be more shamelessly overt.

One of the U.S. contingency plans against the Nicaraguan revolution, according to Commander Borge, is a massive attack by thousands of counterrevolutionaries concentrated in an area of Honduras near the Nicaraguan Department of Zelaya. These forces, he said, would be supported by Honduran troops with U.S. logistical and technical support.

Borge, who is a member of the FSLN National Directorate, said it cannot be ignored that the CIA and its agents could organize some sort of attack against Costa Rica. The attack would be carried out by counterrevolutionaries, and Nicaragua would be blamed.

Tomas Borge said the recent counterrevolutionary attacks against Cardenas, as well as other actions by the counterrevolutionaries directed by Eden Pastora, who has admitted he is a CIA agent, are aimed at making a mockery of the declaration of neutrality proclaimed by Costa Rica.

Borge said the anti-Sandinist incursions from Costa Rica are provocations to try and force Nicaragua into making defensive moves in Costa Rican territory in order to be able to accuse the Managua government of violating San Jose's neutrality. We are not fools, and we will not fall into such a crude trap, Borge said. He also charged that there is a counterrevolutionary plot to kill Nicaraguan religious and opposition political party leaders.

Tomas Borge spoke at the ceremony to close the third National Health Event and the first Nicaragua-United States Scientific Meeting.

INTERIOR MINISTER BORGE TO TOUR UNITED STATES

PA280152 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2334 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Managua, 27 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge will begin a tour of the United States in the middle of next week. While there, he will expound on the current situation in Central America, and particularly in Nicaragua, as seen from the Sandinist viewpoint.

According to information provided by official sources today, Sunday, Borge will visit Washington, New York, Chicago, and Boston, where he will meet with diverse U.S. sectors and with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Borge also will meet with U.S. congressmen, university leaders, and representatives of various political organizations.

Borge feels that it is "very advisable" that he personally inform the U.S. public about the reality of what is taking place in Central America, an area that is undergoing a severe crisis in its struggle to achieve peace and coexistence.

Borge will be accompanied by Nora Astorga, deputy foreign minister; Commander Jose Valdivia Hidalgo; Edmundo Jarquin, minister director of the International Reconstruction Fund; Mariano Fiallos, secretary of the State Council; Saul Arana, official in charge of the North America Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Mirna Cunningas, member of the [word indistinct] structures of the FSLN.

MANAGUA NOTES HONDURAN, U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES

PA261954 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] While Washington states officially that the U.S. troops are in Honduras to participate in the Big Pine II Honduran-U.S. maneuvers, General Wallace Nutting, chief of the U.S. Readiness Command, says that the 6,000 soldiers are in Honduras for the defense of that Central American country. The completion of some artillery courses marked the end of these maneuvers on the Honduran Atlantic coast, and on 24 November the action was transferred to the Pacific coast.

The CIA has turned Honduras into a home for Somozist bases, for waging a war against Nicaragua. Five military camps have been created near the Nicaraguan border, and there are 10,000 counterrevolutionaries -- trained and armed by the CIA and U.S. officials. They have Douglas airplanes to conduct flights between Honduras and El Salvador. The United States intends to increase to 15,000 the membership of the bands that are attacking the Nicaraguan revolution.

RAMIREZ DISCUSSES PEACE PROPOSALS, CONTADORA

PA261939 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, yesterday said that the Nicaraguan Government will reiterate its specific peace proposals at the next Contadora Group meeting, which will be held early in December in Panama.

During an interview for the Extra Newscast, Ramirez Mercado said that the revolutionary government expects specific proposals from neighboring countries seeking agreements and treaties to achieve peace in Central America. Referring to the visit by Ecuadoran Vice President Leon Roldos, Sergio Ramirez said it took place within a framework of solidarity with the Sandinist peoples' revolution. Here is the interview with Sergio Ramirez: [Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] What was the context of the meetings between the government junta and Ecuadoran Vice President Leon Roldos?

[Ramirez] We held lengthy talks with him about the international political situation and the aggression being experienced by our country. He expressed his understanding of the situation and asserted his personal solidarity and that of this government with the Nicaraguan cause. He advocated nonintervention in Nicaragua's internal affairs and defense of the country's integrity and sovereignty.

[Reporter] Dr Ramirez, Nicaragua has been the only country to present specific proposals about the Contadora Group's 21 points. What does the Nicaraguan Government expect from the Panama meeting?

[Ramirez] We expect that the next meeting will include specific proposals leading to the signing of agreements and treaties between the Central American countries and the United States Government itself. We hope that this [word indistinct] of the Contadora Group, which generally concurs with the points we have proposed in a more specific and profound way, will choose the points which are more viable right now and which will lead to taking the first steps for peace and security in Central America. We will present specific proposals in this regard.

[Reporter] What are these proposals?

[Ramirez] We will have to decide on this in due time. However, they will be within the framework of what Commander Daniel Ortega has proposed to the four Contadora Group presidents. [end recording]

Speaking about counterrevolutionary plans to create a separate territory on the Atlantic coast, Sergio Ramirez said that Nicaragua will defeat the counterrevolutionary forces that may concentrate in this zone.

[Begin Ramirez recording] We have plans to face this situation; this is a military, political, and diplomatic situation in view of the counterrevolutionary forces' concentration on the north and Atlantic borders. The Sandinist People's Army is constantly on the move, with the support of the reserve battalions and the Territorial Militias. We are prepared to face this and any other situation that may arise. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO COSTA RICAN STATEMENT

PA260453 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Communique No 24 issued by the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in Managua on 25 November]

[Text] In view of an official communique issued yesterday by the Costa Rican Government regarding the brief occupation of the Costa Rican Consulate in Amsterdam by Netherlands youths, in which the Nicaraguan Government was groundlessly implicated, the Nicaraguan Government feels it must state the following:

1. From the beginning, Nicaragua has supported the presidential proclamation on Costa Rica's perpetual, active, and unarmed neutrality, which was made public by President Luis Alberto Monge on 17 November.

2. The Nicaraguan Government once again reiterates its support of the neutrality that the Costa Rican Government proclaimed, and it hails the statement issued by Costa Rica today indicating that Costa Rica does not accept foreign military aid, that it is not part of CONDECA [Central American Defense Council], and that it will not permit the presence of foreign troops in the country.

3. Nicaragua has reliable information about the concentration of mercenary forces of the so-called Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, and the presence and concentration of contingents of former Somozist guardsmen of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] in Costa Rican territory near the Nicaraguan border for the purpose of launching attacks on Nicaraguan border posts and towns. All of this has been duly reported to the Costa Rican Government, and we know that those forces do not have the support of that country.

4. One of the objectives of these mercenary and Somozist organizations is to cast doubts on Costa Rica's neutrality in order to prevent the normal and friendly development of relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and to involve that sister country in U.S. imperialism's destabilization plans against our people and revolution against its will.

5. Nicaragua is not responsible, directly or indirectly, for the action carried out by Netherlands citizens in the occupation of the consulate in Amsterdam, and it has asked the peoples and governments of the world to support the Costa Rican Government in its proclamation of neutrality so that it will not be undermined by the action of mercenary groups seeking to sow chaos on our common border.

JUNTA PRAISES MONGE DECISION ON MILITARY AID

PA260208 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0126 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Managua, 25 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist government today issued a statement expressing its satisfaction over the Costa Rican Government's decision not to accept foreign military aid. In an official statement, the Sandinists hailed the Costa Rican statement, which indicated that the Costa Rican Government "is not part of CONDECA" (Central American Defense Council) and that "it will not permit the presence of foreign troops in its territory." The Managua government denied responsibility for the action of Netherlands citizens who recently occupied the Costa Rican Consulate in Amsterdam. The Sandinist junta also reiterated its support for the policy of "perpetual and unarmed neutrality" that was proclaimed by President Luis Alberto Monge on 17 November.

The official statement indicated that the "mercenary" forces that are concentrating on the Costa Rican side of Nicaragua's southern border "do not have the support of the Costa Rican Government." According to the Managua government, those forces, which belong to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) and the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), are concentrating in Costa Rican territory "to launch attacks on border posts and towns" in Nicaragua. The Sandinist government stated that the objectives of the "contras" are to "cast doubts" on Monge's neutrality policy "in order to prevent the normal development" of relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR ON NEUTRALITY, TALKS

PA261958 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Nicaragua and Costa Rica are holding talks to renew mixed commission meetings immediately, which will probably start next week in San Jose. This information comes from Jesus Fernandez, Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua. He warned that the latest attacks by counterrevolutionary bands on the southern Nicaraguan border violate the principle and policy of neutrality adopted by his government -- presided over by Luis Alberto Monge. Ambassador Fernandez also asserted that the eventual arrival of 1,000 U.S. National Guards in Costa Rica is under specific conditions, because the territory of his country will not be used for a military base for foreign troops.

LACK OF PAPER THREATENS TO CLOSE LA PRENSA

PA260244 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0018 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Managua, 25 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The Managua opposition newspaper LA PRENSA will temporarily stop circulating on 7 December because of a lack of paper, LA PRENSA sources reported today. The newspaper's general management and board of directors today met with its personnel to explain the crisis caused by the difficulty of importing raw material for the journalism industry. LA PRENSA manager Jaime Chamorro Cardenal explained to the newspaper's workers all the efforts that have been made for the last 2 years to get government authorization for the foreign exchange necessary to import the paper.

The manager said that LA PRENSA's warehouse has just enough paper to continue to publish the newspaper until 7 December. If the newspaper does not receive paper before then, it will have to stop publication temporarily, Chamorro added. He said that efforts are being made to obtain a credit from the Argentine Government to import paper, but everything depends on the government's authorizing the corresponding foreign exchange to purchase the raw material.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION REJECTS PSD PROPOSALS

PA262115 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The Social Democratic Party [PSD] presented a 12-point document to the Electoral Commission yesterday demanding that the national state of emergency be lifted so that the electoral process can be continued in Nicaragua. It also requested that the Army be declared a non-political organization. The PSD, which is a member of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, presented the document within the context of the Electoral Commission's meetings with political parties and workers organizations, which are being held in an effort to obtain a consensus on the way in which the 1985 electoral process should be carried out.

In response to the PSD's proposal that the Army be declared non-political and that military officers not be allowed to vote, Deputy Commander Rafael Solis reiterated the FSLN's view that members of the Nicaraguan Army must all have the right to vote, inasmuch as the Armed Forces earned this right in the armed struggle against the dictatorsh[illegible] point demanding an end to the state of national emergency was also reject[illegible] Electoral Commission, which indicated that this law cannot be lifted wh[illegible] thous[illegible] of U.S. Marines lurk on our borders and seas, ready to invade Nicaragua.

Another PSD proposal was that elections in Nicaragua be supervised by the OAS. Such a request brings the past to mind, when Nicaragua was governed by puppets of U.S. imperialism who decided our people's destiny. In this sense, Electoral Commission member Allan Zambrana pointed out that it is now the Nicaraguans' turn to decide who will govern this country and how, rather than some foreign organization. Other topics discussed included amnesty for political prisoners. On this subject, State Council Vice President Domingo Sanchez said that the PSD defines the Somozist sergeants and former guards who are paying for their crimes in prison as political prisoners. This point would be more appropriate in countries such as Chile, where Pinochet's bloody regime persecutes all who criticize its government.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, political secretary of the PSD and director of LA PRENSA, Maria Elena Selva, Guillermo Potoy, Nino Molcoe, Harmodio Mendieta, and Manuel Mathos Sequeira, participated in the meeting with the electoral commission.

NONALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU MEETING REQUESTED

PA262016 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] United Nations -- The Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Countries' Movement will meet next Monday at Nicaragua's request to examine the critical Central American situation. Ambassador Javier Chamorro Mora has convoked a new bureau meeting because of the threat of a U.S. military intervention in this country and in order to explain the latest efforts by Nicaragua to achieve a peaceful solution within framwork of the Contadora Group.

Nicaragua has begun a diplomatic offensive intended to counter Washington's plans of aggression and to achieve a negotiated arrangement acceptable to all the parties involved in the regional conflict. It has been learned that Chamorro Mora will tell the Nonaligned Countries' representatives about Nicaragua's willingness to give up foreign military advisors and the purchase of certain weapons if and when all the other parties accept the same compromises within the context of an agreement guaranteeing peace and security for all the states.

D'ESCOTO MEETS WITH FMLN-FDR DELEGATION

PA251900 Managua Sistema Sandinist Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] At a meeting with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, El Salvador's FMLN-FDR reiterated its willingness to hold a dialogue in an effort to achieve peace. FMLN-FDR members Salvador Samayoa and Mario Aguinada said that direct aggression by U.S. imperialism against both Nicaragua and El Salvador is imminent. The Salvadoran guerrilla delegation also included Companeros Oscar Acevedo and Mario Lopez. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the FMLN-FDR delegation said that the purpose of the session was to establish a permanent line of contact with the Nicaraguan Government, so as to coordinate their international relations and achieve peace through dialogue.

[Begin recording -- unidentified speaker] Above all we believe that they want to implement their aggressive plans and to coordinate every political and military mechanism with an eye to an eventual invasion. In view of this, we believe that a military solution is not appropriate for our country. We have always stated our position in favor of a negotiated political solution. However, we have also strongly expressed that we are prepared to repel and to drive out any aggressor who might eventually try to enter our country. [end recording]

MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE GUARANTEES BISHOP'S SAFETY

PA261950 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Communique No 42 issued by Nicaraguan Interior Ministry in Managua on 26 November 1983]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Interior Ministry hereby states:

In view of counterrevolutionary plans to assassinate Managua Archbishop Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, the Interior Ministry has offered him necessary protection.

We alert our people and international public opinion that the plan to murder the archbishop of Managua is aimed at blaming his death on the FSLN and creating conditions for an imperialist invasion of Nicaragua with the absurd idea of provoking a people's uprising.

3. It is obvious that this terrorist plan is aimed at distracting our people from their revolutionary defense in the face of the constant threat of invasion of our country.

Issued in Managua on 26 November 1983, year of our struggle for peace and sovereignty.

[Signed] Department of Public Relations of the Interior Ministry

ORTEGA, RAMIREZ ON 'FACE THE PEOPLE' PROGRAM

PA240440 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0211 GMT 24 Nov 83

["Face the People" program, with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan Junta, in the Villa Venezuela neighborhood in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] Good evening, companeros of Villa Venezuela. Tonight we have briefly toured your neighborhood. The tour has been very short, but we had to use some of the time to see the work being carried out for defense here, and the other part of the time to talk with you in this assembly of the people, which we call "Face the People." We are accompanied tonight on this brief tour of the heroic neighborhood of Villa Venezuela by a group of U.S. doctors and nurses who are participating in a scientific event here.

Just as you are working with great enthusiasm on defense projects, this work is also being carried out in all the neighborhoods of Managua, and it is being repeated in all the Nicaraguan cities. This is the least that we Nicaraguans must do: defend this revolution. What do you think? Should we defend this revolution? [crowd shouts: "Yes"] Or should we do nothing? [crowd shouts: "No"] Are we going to fight like Sandino? [crowd shouts: "Yes"] Are we going to surrender like Somoza surrendered to the Yankees? [crowd shouts: "No"] The truth is that these people are people of words and action, and more of action than words. They are acting to work and to rebuild the country. We do not want war. Do you want war? [crowd shouts: "No"] Do we want peace? [crowd shouts: "Yes"] We want peace. We do not want war. We would like to devote ourselves entirely to production, to study, to better distribution of the wealth in this country, to the struggle for there not to be any more barefoot children in the country, for all children to be able to go to school, for the people to have better living conditions, because we know well that our living conditions are not the best.

But what happens? The U.S. Government does not want to leave us alone. It constantly attacks us. To top it all, it has once again approved a huge allocation -- it has approved $24 million -- to continue to kill the Nicaraguan people. How did this happen? This was discussed in the U.S. Congress and Senate [as heard]. The U.S. President and his advisers have maintained that the correct and just stand vis-a-vis Nicaragua is to wage a war against its people. They have carried out what we all know as covert operations, which are now overt operations. The Senate and Congress discussed the approval of so many millions. The President wanted the approval of $50 million for crimes against the Nicaraguan people, to arm the Somozist guardsmen and the traitors like Pastora who kill the Nicaraguan people, to supply airplanes to them, and to wage war against the Nicaraguan people. The U.S. Congress said that it disagreed with the approval of those millions to attack the Nicaraguan people. But in the Senate, they said they did agree.

The U.S. Government has been cutting funds for social programs in the United States, funds that would help the U.S. poor -- despite its great wealth, there is also poverty in the United States, there are poor people who die of hunger and cold. Meanwhile, it has been increasing funds and asking for more millions of dollars to develop more weapons, to invent more deadly weapons. Those include some chemical weapons for which the Reagan government has asked $125 million. It seemed that since the congressmen said no to both things and the Senate said yes, in the end, they decided that they would approve $24 million for the Reagan administration to continue to kill the Nicaraguan people. They decided against the approval of -- I think it was -- $225 million for those chemical weapons.

But, well, we could say that the Nicaraguan people's sacrifice is worthwhile because we are saving humanity from more chemical weapons that would increase the horror of a war. But the truth is that this is a totally illegal action by the U.S. Government when it approves $24 million to continue to attack Nicaragua. But, well, we are duty bound to continue to face and to defeat the attacks launched against us by the Reagan administration through the Somozist guardsmen and traitor Pastora. We have an obligation to prepare ourselves in case they decide to intervene directly in our country by covering up the intervention with the Hondurans or CONDECA [Central American Defense Council]. However, as we have been explaining, CONDECA has not been meeting. What has taken place is a meeting of some Central American armies. Nicaragua is part of CONDECA, and Nicaragua has neither been expelled from nor requested to withdraw from CONDECA. Moreover, CONDECA's statutes do not provide for the expulsion of any of the member countries. Therefore, that does not legally exist. An action against Nicaragua cannot be carried out through CONDECA. But, well, the truth is that all of these things are just pretexts that they would like to use to invade Nicaragua.

They have constantly threatened to do this. They say yes, they say no. Suddenly, a U.S. official comes out and says that they are not going to invade Nicaragua, but then another one says that they will invade Nicaragua. Important U.S. Government spokesmen who should be knowledgeable, such as the U.S. defense secretary, whose name is Caspar Weinberger -- this man replied to U.S. journalists who asked him whether Nicaragua will be invaded by saying neither yes nor no.

We have an obligation to prepare ourselves to face a U.S. invasion. We have said that we are not going to defeat a U.S. invasion overnight. We will not defeat it overnight, but in the medium and the long run we will defeat it. We are sure of this. They can land thousands of soldiers in our country, they can bring in their famous airborne units which landed in Grenada, they can bomb our country as they bombed Vietnam, but in the long run they will be defeated in this country.

Here they will find thousands of Nicaraguans shooting back at them every day, until every single foreign soldier occupying this country is thrown out. We will not allow them to occupy the country. Our duty is to seek the best protection to ensure the least damage should a bombing occur, and this is why you are practicing. A war for this people who do not want a war would be very costly and painful. However, it is no longer up to us, it is up to the U.S. Government. Above all, it depends on the U.S. people, because as the U.S. people begin to adopt a stronger and more civilized attitude, they will have to tell their government that they do not want more invasions of other peoples, and that problems must be solved with dialogue and negotiations.

We are not enemies of the United States. We are enemies of their bad policies. The United States has never cared about democracy in Central America or Nicaragua. Maybe what Somoza had was democracy. Did Somoza have a democracy? [crowd shouts: "No"] What do you think? Will the Somozist guardsmen bring us democracy? [crowd shouts: "No"]. They have never cared about democracy. All they did was to leave Somoza here, and now they say they are worried about democracy. Now that we have had a revolution, now that we are building a democracy in Nicaragua... [changes thought] For the first time in its history Nicaragua has the opportunity to build a democratic regime, and we could say that Nicaragua is building the most democratic regime in Central America. In Nicaragua, democracy began with the literacy campaign. It would not be a good democracy if the people were illiterate. We have also worked for education, health, and social programs in accordance with our possibilities.

We would like to congratulute the residents of Villa Venezuela for the effort that they are making. It is an effort for themselves, for Nicaragua, and for the revolution. We would like to congratulate the companeros involved in the Territorial Militia -- we just saw them in uniform at the plaza -- and the other companeros who have been mobilized in the reserve battalions and the companeros mobilized in the production battalions. We know that the residents of this neighborhood are involved in everything -- Territorial Militia, reserve battalions, production battalions, revolutionary surveillance -- and now they are working for the defense of the neighborhood. We congratulate you, and we are sure that with this spirit, determination, and great degree of organization there will be no invading force capable of defeating us.

[U.S. nurse and teacher (Helen Bowles) -- in English followed by translation into Spanish] I have the following question: What do you see as a continuing economic gain of the U.S. Government for continuing to support the counterrevolutionary activity against the people of Nicaragua?

[Ramirez] We want to tell the companera that the money that the Reagan administration's spending to attack Nicaragua is money that is coming out of the pockets of North American taxpayers. There are various partners in this business. One of the partners is the Somozist counterrevolutionaries, who have never touched a cent in their lives without keeping part of the money. Therefore, the guardsmen and the traitors who are paid with CIA money undoubtedly are keeping a goodly part of that money. In Nicaragua, the National Guard was known for theft, assaults, contraband, white slavery, gambling, prostitution -- all this is what the Nicaraguan people remember as having been represented by the Somozist Guard and Somozism, and there is no reason that they would not use the money which they are abundantly receiving from the CIA in their personal businesses. They are devoting part of it to counterrevolutionary activities and stealing part of it.

There is also the slice kept by the Honduran guardsmen, who are also demanding a contribution in this business. There is no doubt about this, either.

And there are also the U.S. businessmen who sell supplies to the counterrevolution. This dirty war against Nicaragua has already cost over $60 million, with the $24 million that has just been approved. This means that the boots, uniforms, weapons, ammunition, planes -- there are companies that sell planes and rent planes -- represent a business in which the CIA is linked with the U.S. Mafia. For instance, the plane that was shot down in Rio Blanco. The plane that was shot down in the Rio Blanco belonged to a U.S. company that is registered in the United States. This is a CIA front company in alliance with U.S. mafia members.

The plane that was shot down over Sandino Airport also belonged to another U.S. company. It was registered in the United States. This is a CIA front organization in alliance with other merchants. And here we have seized from the counterrevolution brand new equipment, brand new weapons, unused bazookas still in their crates, full crates of ammunition, and radio equipment fresh from the factory. No second-hand material is being used there. Everything is new and in the crates, purchased directly in New York, Washington, Detroit. The crates bear the marks of the cities and the factories that are manufacturing the arms for the counterrevolutionaries.

If one thinks of it, this $24 million -- which they say will last until June -- combined with the other money the CIA already has there, means that we are talking about approximately $4 or $5 million a month to attack Nicaragua. Let us suppose the guardsmen steal half of it. Well, some $3 million will be left, and this is a great deal of money for implementing a plan of aggression.

However, in addition there are other supplies, other weapons, which are not taken into account in this. For example, all the arms which the U.S. Army is using in the "Big Pine II" operation will remain in Honduras. Millions of rounds of ammunition, thousands of rifles, sophisticated radio communications equipment, helicopters, and transport vehicles will remain in that country, and they most surely will ultimately end up in the hands of the counterrevolutionaries. This is one way in which the Reagan administration is supporting the counterrevolutionaries without asking for congressional approval -- by using the supplies that it has sent to Honduras for military operations. Therefore, millions of dollars of the U.S. taxpayers' money are involved here, millions that are being used against the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

[U.S. Doctor (Ken Thompson) -- in English, with simultaneous translation into Spanish] My name is (Ken Thompson). I am a doctor from the Bronx. I am wondering about the current state of democracy in Nicaragua.

[Ortega] I have said that, for the first time in its history, Nicaragua has the possibility of building a democracy. There was a regime, a government, here that was an absolute son of U.S. policy. The most characteristic of the governments or regimes were the ones that led to and constantly supported the Somozist dictatorship. In the past, there were many U.S. Governments that supported unpopular governments in Nicaragua. But the Somozist government is the most characteristic, the most typical, in the long history of U.S. domination in Nicaragua.

There was brutal, monstrous repression in this country. That was the democracy that the United States established in Nicaragua with the Somozist dictatorship. We, the people, had to struggle in a thousand ways until we won liberation. We have said that the Nicaraguan revolution is the daughter of misdirected U.S. policy. Because of the misguided U.S. policy, there was a revolution here. Because of the misguided U.S. policy in Central America, there is also a struggle in El Salvador.

We liberated ourselves on 19 July, and we began to build our democracy. We would have been demagogues if we had held elections in 1979 or 1980. We could have held them. The people, represented by the FSLN, would have won those elections overwhelmingly. We are sure of that. But that would have been a demagogic, false, and weak measure. We were first concerned about teaching the people to read and write. It doesn't make sense, in terms of implementing a democracy, for people to go to the polls without knowing how to read and write. It would be deceptive -- a demagogic act. We had to be concerned first about teaching the people to read and write.

We cannot speak of democracy while facing a tragic economic situation. We have been building a real democracy with the participation of the people. For the first time, the people are organized. The levels of organization achieved by the various sectors -- peasants, workers, men, women, professionals, teachers, youth, children -- were never seen in the past. This is democracy. It is not enough to have periodic elections. Somoza did that. Here we are building peace based on a true democracy. We have also said that we are contemplating elections within the frameworks of this process, but we are contemplating elections with a new meaning -- elections to strengthen and to help the people, elections to strengthen the achievements of the people. Our people participate, on a permanent basis, in the democratic process of this country.

Of course, there are always some sectors that do not agree with this revolution. That is quite logical. There are sectors that do not agree with the revolution, sectors in the country that protest and differ, but this is all part of democracy. However, there are also other sectors that have found an alternative in the form of the U.S. Administration, and they are making war on us. This is not contemplated in the meaning of democracy in Nicaragua. They are foreign, mercenary, artificial forces. We can state that here we are building a real democracy. [applause]

[Questioner] My name is Aura Rosa de Castillo, No 2 CDS coordinator for Villa Venezuela. My question is as follows: We, as people attacked by U.S. imperialism, would like to know to what extent the condemnation of the nonaligned countries can stop the invasion, because we want peace, even though we are willing to sacrifice our lives for it. [applause]

[Ramirez] When Commander Ortega asked the residents of Villa Venezuela gathered here about peace, there was a unanimous response supporting peace; and the revolutionary government, the FSLN, understands this sentiment for peace on the part of the Nicaraguan people. A poor and weak people like ours, a people who only want to build the future, to rebuild a country destroyed by Somozism, an earthquake, and the war for liberation, can never be a warmongering people, a people who love war, or an aggressive people.

During these 5 years of revolution, there has been a scheme, staged from abroad, to try to deprive the Nicaraguan people of their right to legitimate defense, a right that all peoples have -- the right to defend the earth on which we were born, our homeland, our territory. No one can deny us this right. But should the time come when we have to face an enemy, like the U.S. Army, that is better equipped than we are, should we have to face it with all we've got, including sticks and stones, and should we have to pay a very high price in terms of lost lives, destruction, and bloodshed to destroy this enemy -- well, if we can do anything to avoid this bloodshed and suffering, it is our duty to seek all possible means to avoid this situation of invasion, of escalation of aggression, without renouncing the principles of the revolution for which the Nicaraguan people struggled for many years. Wouldn't it be nice for us to say that there will be no war, and that we will do everything that the Yankees tell us to do? We would hear their conditions and accept them, and there would be no war. That is not the price we are going to pay.

Our first unrenounceable condition for achieving peace -- and this is something that the Yankees must understand very clearly -- is that we will never give up our legitimate right to proceed with a revolution here in Nicaragua of the kind sought by the Nicaraguan people. This is something we do not have to discuss with anyone at any international forum or assembly. This is something we Nicaraguans must resolve right here. Some gentlemen are now saying that they will sit down to talk with the government as long as there are foreign witnesses. This is the same traitorous attitude that these gentlemen have always maintained. Someone has to provide guarantees from abroad, otherwise, they do not feel safe. So this is our major prerequisite: We will never give up those principles for which we have fought, nor will we give up our right to wage revolution.

As for the other things that the United States has deceptively included in its demands, we have already said that we are willing to discuss these items, to see if it is true that the United States wants peace. It wants us to state in a document that we are not the strategic reserve of any power. Well, we are willing to sign such a statement. It wants us to say that we are no threat to U.S. security. Well, that is obvious, but we are also willing to put it in writing. What threat could these people pose for a country as powerful as the United States?

This is foolish, but we are still willing to state formally that we pose no threat to the United States. It wants us to accept the condition that all foreign military advisers in the various Central American countries must leave. Well, we can also discuss that. What about the weapons in all these countries? We can perfectly well discuss that, too. However, we will never discuss our right to wage a revolution here. How will we give ourselves a government, how will we elect a government? For the first time ever, we Nicaraguans have won the right to decide these issues for ourselves, with no one deciding for us. In 1927, after the Yankees invaded Nicaragua, they held an election, and at every polling place a Yankee soldier was presiding at the electoral table.

The Yankee Marines counted the votes, and Jose Maria Moncada, the person they had chosen, was elected president. Well, that kind of election can never again be held here in Nicaragua as long as the people have weapons to defend their right to have a true democracy. [applause, shouting of slogans]

This is the kind of peace that the revolutionary government and the FSLN have taken to the United Nations, to the Security Council, to the Nonaligned movement which you mentioned in your question, and to the Contadora Group. We will discuss this at every possible forum. If by following the principles that we have established for achieving peace there is no war, then so much the better. We would be delighted if there were no war, and if we were left alone to continue building Nicaragua. But if the price that they want to impose on us makes it necessary for us to give up our principles, if they want to impose their conditions on us -- well, we are ready here, waiting for those who want to impose conditions on us. [applause, shouting of slogans]

[Questioner] My name is (David Paul). I am a member of the North American delegation. First of all, I would like to thank all of you Nicaraguans, the Health Ministry in particular, for the efforts and sacrifices which you have made to create this atmosphere and to make possible this [word indistinct] from us to you at this moment.

[applause] [Announcer interjects: "This applause was started by all the North American doctors and technical personnel to the Health Ministry."]

I have a specific question, but I will now speak in English, because I want the press, and perhaps North Americans and our government as well, to listen [words indistinct]

[In English, with sentence by sentence translation into Spanish] This morning, we visited the ambassador of the U.S. Government. And I say it this way because after that visit, I feel he does not represent our interests at all. He said many things and used many words that, I think, involved many contradictions. One of the things he kept repeating was the efforts of the U.S. Government to promote peace in Central America. An example he gave us was the visit by -- what's his name -- Stone. And he also said that they had been advising the Contadora Group during the entire process of their negotiations. I would appreciate it if one of you could respond regarding the truth and the nature of these efforts, about which he spoke today, to promote peace in Central America and peace in Nicaragua. Thank you. [applause]

[Ortega] Well, I must say that all the steps that the United States has been taking since the Contadora Group came into existence have been totally contrary to the efforts that have been made [word indistinct] the Contadora Group. Nicaragua has fully identified with the Contadora Group, and has supported it from the beginning. Logically, this means that Nicaragua has taken concrete steps to back up the Contadora Group's efforts to find a political solution to the problems that have arisen in the region, above all, the problems brought about in the region by the United States.

However, it is good to note that all of the steps which the United States has taken have been contrary to the peace efforts. That is, while the Contadora Group's and Nicaragua's position has been to make efforts in favor of peace, the United States has made efforts in favor of war. And this does not involve mere words.

When Mr Stone made his first visit to the Central American region, where he also visited the Contadora Group countries and the presidents of the Contadora Group, Mr Stone brought a letter from President Reagan that he delivered to the presidents of the Contadora Group. President Reagan said in the letter that he agreed with the efforts of the Contadora Group, that he supported those efforts, that the United States agreed that no foreign advisers should remain in Central America, and that efforts should be made to control the flow of weapons into Central America.

However, at the same time that President Reagan was stating these things in the letter carried by Mr Stone, at the time Mr Stone was visiting the Central American countries, the installation of a training base in Honduran territory was announced in Washington. In other words, an action that totally belies the statements made by President Reagan in his letter to the presidents of the Contadora Group was announced in Washington with General Gustavo Alvarez in attendance.

Then, during the month of July -- I believe it was sometime around the 21st -- a meeting of the presidents of the Contadora Group was held in Cancun.

On 19 July, we announced a flexible new position on the part of Nicaragua, which was intended to help advance the discussions with the Contadora Group. The United States was pressuring certain Central American countries within Contadora so that they would not accept the bilateral and multilateral talks that are appropriate here in view of the existing problems. We are talking about dialogue or talks among all countries, that is, a multilateral dialogue in which all the Central American countries would discuss all their problems, and bilateral dialogues as well, in which, for example, if Honduras and Nicaragua had problems, Honduras and Nicaragua would hold talks, or if Nicaragua and the United States had problems, Nicaragua and the United States would hold talks. In other words, those countries with the most pressing problems would hold talks. In addition, the Central American countries would address all the problems that they might wish to discuss, whether related to security, the economy, or other issues.

Nicaragua announced a very flexible position in an effort to end the freeze that had come over Contadora. We said: Let's hold multilateral talks; we don't fear multilateral talks. Multilateral talks represented the U.S. position, which it has been forcing on certain countries within the Contadora framework simply so that there will be no dialogue. This is the truth. They don't want to hold a dialogue. They want to sabotage the peace efforts and to continue encouraging the line of war.

So, on 19 July Nicaragua announced its position in favor of both dialogue and peace. It was a very specific position. On 21 July, the Contadora presidents met and issued an appeal on behalf of the peace efforts. What was the U.S. response to that effort? It claimed to continue to endorse Contadora but what, in practice, was their response, since this is what counts -- deeds, not words. The United States announced that it was sending its warships to the Central American area. It also announced the staging of military maneuvers in Honduras. That was the U.S. response to Nicaragua's position and to the position stated by the Contadora presidents in Cancun in July. In other words, all the peace efforts made by the Contadora Group and by Nicaragua have met, in practice, with warlike responses from the United States.

Recently, prior to the developments in Grenada -- and it is important that it be clear -- this was prior to the incidents in Grenada, since the problem is that the U.S. Government contends that force is needed, since that is the only way we understand -- we signed the 21-point Document of Objectives, a 21-point document that all the Central American countries signed within Contadora. The Grenada incidents had not yet taken place, but the U.S. Government said that we were signing that document because the pressures being exerted were yielding results. What pressures were they referring to? Well, the military maneuvers, the U.S. warships off our coasts, the attacks carried out against the Nicaraguan people, the counterrevolutionary attacks from Honduras and from other border points, and other measures.

But our position was merely reasonable. It was not the result of threats and pressures. It was merely a reasonable position adopted by Nicaragua. So, Nicaragua announced a reasonable position, and the United States chose to interpret it in this manner. Prior to the Grenada incidents, Nicaragua proposed four treaties. One of them was for peace and friendship with the United States; the others concerned the Central American countries. And there they are; those four treaties were submitted to the Contadora Group and to the U.S. Government as well. Well, then came the Grenada incidents, the U.S. invasion of Grenada, an action through which the United States has sought to intimidate Nicaraguans. They have tried to send us an intimidatory message telling us the following: We did it in Grenada, and we can also do it in Nicaragua. Efforts have continued within Contadora, new meetings have been held, but what have we found on the part of the United States? More threats, increasingly serious threats. Now they are even saying that an invasion of Nicaragua cannot be ruled out. U.S. officials are clearly saying this. The defense secretary said it only yesterday. He said that a possible invasion of Nicaragua has not been ruled out.

Now they have approved $24 million. The Contadora Group met on 19 November in Washington, and only a few days later the sum of $24 million was approved in the United States to continue the aggression against Nicaragua. So, all U.S. actions and deeds always contradict the Contadora efforts; they are aimed at sabotaging Contadora; they always fall in line with a military solution. That is the reality; that is the truth. Yet we are obliged to continue making efforts within Contadora. As Companero Sergio explained earlier, Nicaragua has said: Well, let us discuss the matter of weapons in Central America, because the Central American region would thus try to find a balance; let us also discuss the issue of the foreign military advisers; let us discuss all the security issues connected with each of the Central American states; and finally, let the United States and Nicaragua discuss your problems and our problems, from the standpoint of security, weapons, or advisers.

We have shown ourselves to be absolutely willing to discuss all issues and to reach agreements on all these points. Why? Because we want to make it clear once and for all whether the United States really wants to find a negotiated political solution to the problems in Central America, or whether, instead, this is all a lie, and what it really wants is war. So we have to prepare ourselves in both directions. We have to prepare, as we are now doing, to confront, resist, and defeat a U.S. invasion, but we must also continue making efforts to prevent such an intervention, because in the final analysis, that would not benefit the Nicaraguan people. Intervention would mean sacrifice and pain, and we don't want that; we don't want war. If war is imposed on us, logically, we would have to fight. We would fight, and we would win. However, this would also discredit and isolate the United States, as well as lead to an ultimate defeat for the United States. An intervention in Nicaragua would elicit reaction from Latin America, especially Central America, where a struggle of resistance would be waged, a struggle that would not be limited to Nicaragua alone. We are sure of that. The Central American peoples are one. This is nothing new; the Nicaraguan revolution is not making this up. We were a single people in 1856, when Walker invaded us from the United States. And the Central American peoples, united, defeated Walker. Should an invasion be staged, the Central American peoples will respond. The struggle would be long, that is true. The struggle would be long, not short.

However, in the long run, the United States would be completely defeated in Central America. Should they intervene and invade Nicaragua, they would not be defeated here only; they would be defeated throughout Central America.

So what is best, what is most reasonable, or more just? Avoiding war, and seeking a political solution to the existing problems. This is why we have been working along two lines; along the line of dialogue and negotiations, which we believe should be the solution, and along the line of defense, in order to confront and defeat an eventual U.S. intervention. [applause]

[Unidentified American doctor -- question in English, followed by Spanish translation] The American people are told by their media that the press in Nicaragua is censored, and that foreign newspapers are not allowed. These stories make it very difficult for us to affect the policies of our government when we return. I know that when I return to the United States, I will be asked about these stories. How do you feel I should respond to these stories when I return to the United States?

[Ramirez] Companero doctor from New York, the best way to help the Nicaraguan people is by telling the truth, the truth about what is currently happening here, the truth about what you yourself are witnessing. Tell what these people, who are now surrounding you, are really like. They are a simple people, a people who do not hold any grudges against the American people, because the Nicaraguan people can distinguish perfectly between the aggressive policies of the extremists who currently rule the United States and the American people's feelings. Unfortunately, as you yourself have indicated, the American people are not well informed; they are not familiar with the real situation here. They can be easily manipulated. They can also be very easily guided. For instance, the U.S. people don't really know what happened in Grenada. The Reagan administration boasts that the U.S. people endorsed the U.S. troops' actions as liberators in Grenada, and the rescue mission carried out there. The American people have been led to believe that the Grenadian people are happy about this invasion. But the people who sit in front of the television sets, those who read the papers and the magazines, have not yet been told how big Grenada is. In a somewhat cunning and blackmailing way, Mr Reagan presented two developments to the American people -- the death of over 200 Marines in Lebanon and the invasion of Grenada -- as if they were related events and, as if by attacking a small island, a small and weak people in Grenada, they could avenge the developments in Lebanon. This was the imperial power's message to the American people: The U.S. Government and its Army can deal a blow anywhere, and to prove it, a blow was dealt to this small island, which is smaller in size than the District of Columbia in the United States; an island that is 23,000 times smaller than the United States, and that has merely 100,000 people. The American people have not been told this.

When a jumbo jet was downed over South Korea [as heard] and several U.S. citizens were killed, the U.S. television networks broadcast reports on this all day long hammering in the fact that this plane had been downed. However, they concealed the fact that a mental hospital had been bombed by planes overflying Grenada, burning and killing more than 70 mental patients, while others had managed to run out into the streets with their bodies on fire. The hospital was completely destroyed by the bombings, but the American people were not told this. This incident was not used as an emotional issue to rouse the American people.

However, we must admit that there are positive elements in the contradictions among the large and very powerful companies that own the media in the United States. A movie currently being shown on U.S. television tells of the destruction of Kansas City as a result of atomic war. This fostered a heated debate in the United States after millions of people watched it. The impact has been tremendous. People in the United States have come to realize the price that they will have to pay in an atomic war. Scenes in the film showed the rockets leaving the silos where they are buried in the United States as they were fired at the Soviet Union. But the film also showed scenes of the response and its effects on the United States, where cities were destroyed and thousands incinerated.

We think that if a movie relating to Nicaragua were made in the United States, and a campaign were launched to have people watch this film, hundreds of millions would see what it would mean to attack Nicaragua, the number of American youths who would come here to die for an unjust cause, the number of coffins that we, unfortunately, would send back to the United States, the number of homes and mothers who would lose a son -- we are not mentioning the Nicaraguan mothers because, unfortunately, that does not move the American public too much. The American public is moved more by the Americans who die; that is a fact. Very well, then, the film should show that it is not the same as invading an island with serious political conflicts, where no one was willing to seize weapons -- yet they still needed 15,000 soldiers to seize this island of 100,000 inhabitants. If we make an estimate, there are 3 million people here, so they would need at least 500,000 soldiers; that is, if we do not defend ourselves. However, if we consider the fact that each Nicaraguan here is worth 10 invading Marines, they would then need many millions of Yankee Marines. [applause, shouting of slogans]

We want the U.S. people to know that you are surrounded here by a simple and fraternal people, who believe in their revolution and are determined to defend it. These are the people who waged this revolution and will continue waging it; a people who are not enemies of the American people, but who are enemies to the death of any invader who may want to set foot here. [applause, shouting of slogans]

[Ortega] Well, companeros, on behalf of the companeros of Villa Venezuela who are present here, and on behalf of the Nicaraguan people, I would like to tell the U.S. doctors and nurses who have accompanied us tonight that the Nicaraguan people are truly friends of the American people. We also know that the American people are friends of the Nicaraguan people. Peoples throughout the world share a common interest and have a common identification. It is only natural that the peoples should seek opportunities to behave fraternally and to move closer together. In the United States, certain barriers have been imposed on the U.S. people, but these are gradually being removed. Gradually, an increasing awareness and clarity is growing among the U.S. people. Gradually, the time will com when the U.S. people will be sufficiently aware, sufficiently clear, about sit tions so that the administrations in the United States will not maintain positions that violate all human rights, as is the case with the present U.S. Government. The current government violates the human rights of the peoples, the human rights of the Nicaraguan people.

We are sure that the frank and fraternal climate that has prevailed tonight between the group representing the Nicaraguan people here in Villa Venezuela and the group representing the American people will prevail completely in relations between the American and Nicaraguan peoples some day. The U.S. Administration's war songs will then be forgotten forever, and peace songs will be sung both here and in the United States. In the meantime, however, we will have to prepare to wage new battles and new struggles, and to win new victories. Free fatherland [crowd shouts "or death!"] [applause]

BAYARDO ARCE ON CONTADORA, U.S., HONDURAS

PA241940 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Exclusive interview with Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee, by an unidentified Radio Sandino reporter -- date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander, within the framework of the Contadora Group, does Nicaragua support the withdrawal of military advisers and a reduction in arms?

[Arce] Definitely, we have submitted a proposal which outlines our willingness to discuss this, and to take immediate steps with the appropriate international [word indistinct] mechanisms. Once the military advisers are withdrawn from all the Central American countries, and the [word indistinct] of weapons in all the Central American countries is frozen, we will have deprived the United States of the argument that there is a conflict over this, and that the problems of militarism and advisers are at the root of the tension in the region. By depriving the United States of this excuse, we will be forcing it to sit down and negotiate and to contribute to the peace, stability, and peaceful progress of the Central American peoples.

[Reporter] Commander, in this sense, does the FSLN believe that there has been a decrease in the tension in the area, in view of the support that the Contadora Group has received from various countries?

[Arce] We do not believe that tension has decreased. The strengthening of the Contadora Group -- thanks to the Nicaraguan initiative at the OAS General Assembly and to Nicaragua's direct efforts with the Contadora Group countries and other countries, together with the other political initiatives proposed by Nicaragua, such as the one I mentioned earlier -- has reduced the number of excuses and arguments that the United States can employ in order to continue escalating its warmongering and adventuristic efforts here in Central America.

We cannot say that tension has decreased at a time when more U.S. troops are arriving in Honduras; when the U.S. fleets are ever more present off the coasts of Central America and Nicaragua; and when efforts are still being made to frustrate the Costa Rican decision to remain neutral by trying to pressure it into accepting U.S. troops disguised as [word indistinct] on Costa Rican territory. Summing up, we cannot believe that tension has decreased as long as U.S. military might is threatening peace in the Central American region, and while funds are being collected to finance the criminal actions and the dirty war the CIA has declared on the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] Commander, the FSLN issued a call to the political parties as a result of the emergency situation the country is facing. How have they responded to this call, as well as to the initiation of the electoral process that will get underway in the coming months?

[Arce] The FSLN call received an immediate response from the Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR], the Communist Party, and the People's Action Movement, which attended a meeting last week with Commander Carlos Nunez, who spoke with them on behalf of the National Directorate. The companeros from the FPR and the other two parties responded in a positive manner, and supported all the efforts that the revolution is currently making to achieve peace and to seek an honorable and peaceful solution to the problems of the region and to prepare the country for a situation of aggression.

We also discussed with these parties the preparation of an electoral calendar, which will be announced on 4 December, if I am not mistaken, at the closing of the State Council's deliberations. These parties maintained their previous position, and decided to participate in the preparation of this electoral calendar.

[Reporter] Commander, the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua made a statement in which he said terrible things about the Sandinist revolution. How would you characterize this statement by Antonio [as heard] Quainton?

[Arce] I believe that from the political and diplomatic viewpoints, the statement is explicable. Mr Quainton represents the Ronald Reagan administration, which has maintained a highly reactionary position and which has resorted to unscrupulous mechanisms in carrying out its foreign policy. In that sense, it is understandable that his representative here would repeat the slander and false charges and would join the misinformation campaign that President Reagan and other U.S. officials have been carrying out, not just recently, but since they assumed power. It is therefore explicable for this gentleman -- despite the fact that he is in Nicaragua, and is aware of our reality -- to say these things when he goes to the United States, or addresses the media.

In addition, from a personal viewpoint, the statement is explicable because the man is simply trying to keep his job. However, if we look at it from the viewpoint of the human principles that we revolutionaries profess and expect from others, it is deplorable that someone, in order to keep his job, must participate in an orchestrated campaign of falsehoods, and must tell lies just to overcome this situation.

[Reporter] In the next few days, Honduran Defense Secretary Alvarez will travel to the United States, along with Honduran [Foreign Minister] Paz Barnica and Central Bank officials, to meet with U.S. officials. How do you view this visit?

[Arce] The Hondurans have the right to do as they please. The danger in all of this is that Honduras -- as the international community and the world at large are aware -- has been increasing its submission to Washington's political decisions. We are certain that none of these steps are aimed at recovering their independence, sovereignty, or dignity, but will oil the machinery through which Honduras continues to be a cog in the U.S. aggressive apparatus in the Central American region.

FSLN HOLDS MEETING WITH COORDINATING BOARD

PA241927 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] FSLN representatives and members of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board met last night in the State Council building in Managua to discuss the country's internal problems. Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the State Council, Subcommander Rafael Solis, secretary of the State Council; and Companera Eva Acevedo, alternate FSLN delegate to the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, represented the FSLN at the meeting. Dr Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, of the Social Christian Party; Erick Ramirez and Jose Espinoza, of the CUS [Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions]; (Filmore Cole), of the Social Democratic Party; and Ignacio Miranda, of the Constitutionalist Liberal Movement, represented the Coordinating Board. Subcommander Solis told newsmen that the topics discussed concerned the electoral process, and that a patriotic appeal had been made in connection with the U.S. Government's plans to invade Nicaragua. Solis said that the members of the Coordinating Board expressed concern, and promised to make efforts to prevent an invasion.

ECUADOR'S ROLDOS ARRIVES ON 2-DAY VISIT

PA250249 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Upon his arrival in this country this morning, Ecuadoran Vice President Leon Roldos said: Our presence in Nicaragua is one more example of the solidarity and inter-American spirit of the people and Government of Ecuador with the people and Government of Nicaragua.

Invited by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, the Ecuadoran statesman will stay in Managua for 2 days, during which he will meet with our leaders, members of the FSLN National Directorate, and representatives of the private sector.

Roldos was accompanied by Patricio Maldonado, technical director of the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry, and Lieutenant Colonel Bolivar Arevalos. The visiting delegation was greeted at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Ecuadoran Ambassador Ricardo Moreno, Deputy Commander Rafael Solis of the State Council leadership, and other protocol officials.

In remarks to reporters this morning, Roldos expressed support for the peace proposals that Nicaragua made to the Contadora Group and rejected any invasion of Nicaragua. The Ecuadoran leader said:

[Begin Roldos recording] We believe that this is an hour which the peoples and governments of Latin America must use to the advantage of our reality and common objectives. We are going to talk with the Nicaraguan Government. We believe that there must be an effective solidarity with this nation, its government, and the efforts of the Contadora Group for a real democracy in Nicaragua and [word indistinct] respect for Nicaragua and our countries. In that direction, we express our total rejection of any form of intervention, whether direct or indirect. [end recording]

For his part Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto said that Roldos' visit is very significant for the Nicaraguan Government and people. Here is what he said:

[Begin D'Escoto recording] I am pleased with the visit of Vice President Roldos, the brother of our [word indistinct] and dear friend President Jaime Roldos, who visited our country a few days after the triumph of the Sandinist people's revolution. We have always felt close and profound ties of brotherhood and solidarity with the people and Government of Ecuador, and this is an opportunity to prove this and bring these fraternal and solidaristic ties even closer. [end recording]

SUAZO STATEMENT TO SPANISH DAILY CRITICIZED

PA241947 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] From Madrid, Spain. In a statement to the Spanish newspaper ABC, Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova again defamed Nicaragua, and reiterated false charges, such as one claiming that PLO and ETA advisers are operating here. Suazo Cordova refused to mention the presence of thousands of counterrevolutionaries in his country, who receive his full support and collaboration, and who are financed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA.

With nary a blush, the Honduran head of state demanded that Spain discontinue its aid to Nicaragua, in an attempt to obstruct Spanish-Nicaraguan relations. Suazo Cordova's statement, which coincides with statements by U.S. officials, focuses on the Central American problem from the viewpoint of the East-West confrontation, although this was dismissed by the United Nations when it discussed the Central American problem.

NEWSWEEK REPORT ON CASTRO HEALTH REJECTED

PA271918 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1846 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Havana, 27 Nov (REUTER) -- Cuban officials and foreign diplomats today scoffed at press reports that President Fidel Castro was showing signs of being seriously ill in view of his slow movements and inarticulate manner of speaking. "Castro endured the 3-week Grenada crisis and later delivered a 90-minute speech before more than 1 million people, exhibiting only natural tiredness," a European diplomat told REUTER. Cuban officials said that the report published today by the U.S. weekly NEWSWEEK was not worthy of comment. A foreign newsman who has covered Havana for more than 2 decades said that he had not noted any signs of physical deterioration in 57-year-old Castro other than what is expected at that age.

NOTE TAKEN OF WHITE HOUSE SECURITY MEASURES

FL251242 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Several trucks loaded with sandbags have been parked around the White House and the State Department in Washington to prevent possible attacks. Those responsible for security at the U.S. presidential mansion declined to reveal the reasons for these precautions, but Ana (Stockman), a State Department spokesperson said the measures were due to possible bomb threats.

President Ronald Reagan, who is at his ranch in Santa Barbara, California, has not made a statement regarding the measures, but his spokesman Larry Speakes said that they were a routine security precaution.

'OUR AMERICA' ON U.S. PRESENCE IN HONDURAS

PA260330 Havana International Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Nov 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Nicaragua has been the object of armed attacks organized by Honduran Army troops, who in recent days have made up excuses to launch an open war against the neighboring country. To avoid providing the enemies of peace with this pretext, the Sandinist armed forces have not responded to these acts of aggression, despite the considerable danger they represent. These incidents have been denounced by Nicaragua before the United Nations Security Council in several documents in which the government of national reconstruction also pointed out that it has adopted measures to guarantee the safety of all foreigners residing in Nicaraguan territory.

These notes issued by the Nicaraguan Government constitute an alert to the White House, so that it will not try to justify an aggressive action on the vulgar pretext of its citizens' safety. The Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction has reiterated that it trusts that within the Contadora Group, agreements will be reached to guarantee peace and security in Central America, and it has stressed that these agreements should include the removal of all foreign troops and advisers from the area as well as a reduction of arms by the armies in the region.

The threats against Nicaragua are real. U.S. Marines are located off the coasts of this Central American country, and thousands of former Somozist guards have gathered near Nicaragua's borders, armed, trained, paid, and directed in military and political terms by the CIA. With the arrival of another 1,200 U.S. Marines in Honduras, there are more than 6,000 U.S. troops here participating in maneuvers of an eminently offensive nature in Honduran territory.

General Gustavo Alvarez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, is not hiding the true intentions of these military exercises. A few days ago he said the maneuvers mark a waiting period, and that war is the only option if Nicaragua continues with its current government. Equally threatening, cynical, and overbearing were the statements of Curtin Winsor, U.S. ambassador in Costa Rica, who said that the United States cannot live with a Marxist-Leninist regime in the region. The United States is continuing its policy of ambiguities. On the one hand, the U.S. Congress has approved a credit of $24 million to continue the covert war against Nicaragua, and on the other, the U.S. Government voted at the United Nations and the OAS in favor of the Contadora Group peace efforts.

Nicaragua, meanwhile, is developing a clear policy of principles that cannot cause misunderstandings. The national reconstruction government has given irrefutable proof of its interest in peace and the defense of its borders. The entire country is preparing for defense in response to the threats of aggression. Nicaraguan militiamen are intensifying their military training throughout the country. They are digging trenches to face any large-scale attack, and they are constructing shelters for the children and other sectors of the noncombatant population. The continual attacks have not altered the normal development of Nicaragua's economic life. Its people have reconciled work with the strengthening of defenses. All of these measures, along with the high combat morale and the optimism of the Nicaraguan people, are already the guarantee of victory.

WORKERS IN NICARAGUA VOW TO STAND GROUND

FL261630 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Cuban internationalists who are working in Nicaragua have expressed their determination to remain at their posts despite the threats of a direct imperialist military intervention in the sister Central American nation. The decision was expressed in a letter that was read during an exchange of experiences on education among delegates to the first Cuba-Nicaragua anti-imperialist youth meeting, which is taking place in Santiago de Cuba.

The text was read by teacher Consuelo [last name indistinct] from Havana, who with nine other Cuban educators, is representing the internationalists serving in the land of Sandino. The delegates, meeting at the University of Oriente in Santiago de Cuba, supported the Cuban Internationalist teachers' and doctors' position with slogans and exchanged views on general education in both countries.

DOCTORS, 2,000 TEACHERS RETURN FROM NICARAGUA

PA270440 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2345 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Havana, 26 Nov (EFE) -- The contingent of 2,000 Cuban teachers who were working in Nicaragua recently returned to this Caribbean island following the end of the 1982-83 school year in that Central American country.

A total of 1,200 teachers in this group have ended their 2-year period of service in Nicaragua, while the remaining 800, who returned to the island on vacation, will go back to Nicaragua when the new school year begins. Around this same time last year the Cuban teachers working in Nicaragua returned to Cuba within the same program. Some stayed in Cuba, while another group returned to Nicaragua in February to continue working there. There has been no official report describing the return of the Cuban teachers, known as the Augusto Cesar Sandino contingent, as a "withdrawal," and it is believed that a new group of 1,200 teachers will replace those who have completed their term.

The first group of Cuban teachers arrived in Nicragua on 5 November 1979 after which more teachers joined them to help in the various departments, especially in rural areas. Unofficial sources told EFE that some doctors and health personnel, mostly women who were carrying out missions in Nicaragua, have also returned to Cuba.

CASTRO CONDEMNS KIDNAPPING OF BETANCUR'S BROTHER

PA262359 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] A message sent by Cuban leader Fidel Castro to Colombian President Belisario Betancur says: We are moved by the reports of the kidnapping of your brother, Jaime, and we remember the interest you showed a few weeks ago in facilitiating the return of the Cuban collaborators who were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner in an unequal but heroic fight against the forces invading Grenada. The message adds that the act perpetrated against Jaime Betancur and the Colombian head of state is inexcusable from any viewpoint, and notes that President Betancur has given unequivocal proof of his interest in achieving peace both within and outside of Colombia, as well as of his noble humanitarian concerns.

The message continues: We hope that those who are responsible for the kidnapping, if prompted by a political motive, will understand the grave error contained in this action and the irreversible damage that it has inflicted on the same cause that they are defending. In another part of the message, Fidel Castro says: As a revolutionary, I have always believed that ethics are an unrenounceable principle, without which even the most just and pure political cause can be irreversibly damaged and tarnished. Castro added: This action against one of your close relatives is not, in our judgment, ethical, political, or just under any circumstances. To hurt him physically or to kill him would be a crime that could never be committed by those who are truthfully acting on behalf of revolutionary ideas.

In closing, Fidel Castro, the president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, expressed his earnest hope that those who are holding the Colombian President's brother, if moved by political reasons and if they consider themselves revolutionaries, will respond to this reasoning, will respect the physical well-being of Jaime Betancur, and will free him immediately.

NOTE TAKEN OF MCINTYRE'S REFUSAL OF POST

PA252044 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Alister McIntyre, deputy secretary general of UNCTAD, has declined an offer to head the provisional government of Grenada, which is currently occupied by U.S. troops. McIntyre, who had been appointed to that post by Paul Scoon -- the so-called governor-general of that Caribbean island -- excused himself, alluding to health reasons.

U.S. ADVISERS IN CARIBBEAN TO TRAIN PEACE FORCE

PA262235 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The U.S. State Department has confirmed that some 100 U.S. military advisers have been sent to the eastern Caribbean to train the armed forces of those countries that participated in the invasion of Grenada. U.S. spokesman Allan Romberg said that the training program will cost $15 million and that it was planned to strengthen what he described as the Caribbean peace force for Grenada, consisting of Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua, Dominica, St Lucia, and St Vincent.

Although Romberg stressed that the measure is intended to permit these forces to assume greater responsibility in Grenada, political observers believe that is is the first step in the establishment of a regional security apparatus that would be suitable to the United States. According to U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, the Pentagon is interested in creating a permanent military force in the eastern Caribbean in order to prevent the birth of any popular government like that of Grenada's assassinated Maurice Bishop.

PARTY DECLARATION ON PALESTINIAN FIGHTING

FL261414 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The Communist Party of Cuba has issued a declaration concerning the armed clashes within the Palestinian resistance. The note says that our party views with profound concern the continuation of fratricidal fighting among Palestinians in northern Lebanon. Similarly, the party believes that those who participate directly in or who encourage these tragic events must face serious responsibility before history and before their peoples. It adds that the struggle within the Palestinian resistance benefits only the Zionists and imperialists, who are observing and encouraging the confrontations in order to subsequently unleash the forces they are concentrating off the Lebanese coast, taking advantage of the conditions created by these struggles.

The party declaration notes that in their attacks against the Palestinians, Zionism and imperialism will not differentiate between one group or the other, and that they have shown before that their objective is to annihilate the Palestinian people in general.

The document adds that this struggle is being taken advantage of by the enemies to appreciably damage the image of the Palestinian revolutionaries and to reverse the advances in international prestige achieved by the PLO and the just cause of its people.

The Communist Party of Cuba issues a call to all parties implicated in the conflict to respect the cease fire and to begin negotiations to arrange a solution to their differences and to again use their weapons against the fundamental enemy -- Zionism and imperialism.

ANPP SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN L.A. PARLIAMENT

FL260205 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] has reported that it has asked to be admitted as an active member of the Latin American Parliament. The request, it stated, will be considered in the next plenary session of that organization, which will be held in Brazil in late 1984.

Aranaburo described as highly positive the attitude with which the Cuban delegation participated in the Quito meeting.

GRENADA

INTERIM ADMINISTRATION DENIES RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

FL240050 Bridgetown CANA in English 2354 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 23, CANA -- Grenada's new interim administration today told the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International that it was not aware of any violation of the rights of former prisoners of war held at the U.S.-built detention centre at Point Salines. The caretaker government, which was sworn into office on November 15, was responding to a telegram sent to Grenada Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon and the head of the U.S. consular mission on the island alleging violation of the rights of those inmates held at the centre, which has not been closed. The centre was set up following last month's U.S.-led invasion.

Amnesty International charged in its message that those persons held at Point Salines were kept for periods of up to three days in wooden crates which were fully exposed to the sun with little ventilation and no facilities for water or personal hygiene. It also said that it considers detention in such conditions as "cruel, inhumane, and degrading" and called on the new authorities in Grenada to ensure that persons held in custody be promptly charged and brought before a court or released.

In response to the accusations, Grenada's English-born Attorney-General Anthony Rushford said in a telex message sent to the human rights organisation that the new leaders here were not aware it was in breach of international law. "I and my colleagues are resolutely determined to uphold the rule of law during this difficult transitional period and to ensure that all security detainees are treated humanely with due respect for their constitutional rights," Rushford said in the message.

Some 1,300 persons, including Cuban POW's, captured Grenadian militia members, and soldiers of the now disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), were held in detention at the wooden-built centre which was dismantled on Nov 14. The Cubans were repatriated to their homeland, while 47 Grenadians still being held were transferred to the custody of Grenadian authorities at the Richmond Hill Prison.

The new interim government has since announced the appointment of a three-man tribunal to review the cases of theose persons held in detention for their part in the October 19 military coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed. U.S. troops invaded Grenada six days later to remove the military and restore elected government.

AUTHORITIES TO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY BODIES

FL241408 Bridgetown CANA in English 1352 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 24, CANA -- U.S. military officials yesterday handed over the remains of four bodies to Grenada authorities, who said they would carry out their own forensic examination. U.S. experts had given up attempts to identify the badly decomposed bodies, one of which was suspected to be that of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, killed in an Army coup last month.

Grenada Attorney-General Anthony Rushford said he had instructed the commissioner of police to carry out an inquest aimed at identifying the remains, which were discovered in a common grave in southern Grenada three weeks ago. "There is a real question of identifying the bodies because of the mutilated and decomposed state of the bodies," Rushford said. He said a forensic expert would be arriving here shortly to assist in the investigation.

GOVERNMENT HOLDING 47 PEOPLE IN WAKE OF COUP

FL241600 Bridgetown CANA in English 1547 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 24, CANA -- Former government leaders, civil servants, soldiers, and trade unionists are among the 47 people detained following last month's U.S.-led invasion, according to the list of detainees just released here. The list is headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and ex-government junior minister, and former Army General Hudson Austin, who are widely believed to have masterminded the October 19 military coup. U.S.-led troops invaded Grenada six days later to remove the military from power and restore parliamentary government.

Also held at Richmond Hill Prison are Selwyn Strachan, the former minister of information and national mobilisation, and 13 soldiers who, with Austin, were on the short-lived 16-man military council ousted by U.S. forces. The list includes former permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Construction Michael Prime, ex-Commissioner of Prisons Justin Roberts, President of the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union John Vengour, and Chester Humphrey, vice president of the Technical and Allied Workers Union.

RADIX' PASSPORT STOLEN, HOUSE SEARCHED

FL240105 Bridgetown CANA in English 2309 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 23, CANA -- Former Grenada Government Minister Kendrick Radix says he wants to leave the island "for a few weeks to cool off" but is held up because his travel documents have been stolen. Radix told CANA in a telephone interview that an application to the new authorities in Grenada for new documents to allow him to travel to Mexico last week was not successful. "But I am still hoping. I need a few weeks to cool off," he said.

Radix was minister of justice and agro-industries in the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), which was ousted in a bloody military coup last month, an action which precipitated the U.S.-led invasion of the island on October 25.

Radix said his home had been broken into twice within the past few weeks. On the last occasion, he said, residents had told him they saw uniformed U.S. troops entering his state-owned home. "It was the same pattern of search as the first time, when the passports were taken. Whoever it was let my rabbits loose. I had 25, now only eight or nine remain. It was a dirty search with things scattered all over the house; they even disembowelled the phone," he said. Radix said he had done nothing about the matter. "I can't even remember the dates of the break-ins. It was so typical."

FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER ARRESTED, RELEASED

FL240128 Bridgetown CANA in English 2339 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 23, CANA -- Former Grenada Agriculture Minister George Louison was released yesterday after an overnight stay in prison where he was held for questioning, a Caribbean military official said today.

Major Samuel Prescod of the Caribbean peace-keeping force told CANA Louison was picked up Monday and taken to Richmond Hill Prison for questioning but was released yesterday. He declined to give further details, and Louison was not immediately available for comment.

Louison was minister of agriculture when the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government was ousted from power in a military coup last month. The U.S. later invaded the island to remove the military and restore elected government.

ACTIVITIES OF NJM MEMBERS UNDER OBSERVATION

FL251927 Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 25 (CANA) -- The Caribbean Peace-Keeping Force in Grenada is continuing to monitor the activities of members of the New Jewel Movement [NJM], which ruled the island until it was ousted during a bloody political upheaval last month, an officer of the force said. His statement follows the arrest this week of former Agriculture Minister George Louison. Louison was released from custody Wednesday after an overnight stay in prison for questioning.

"We are looking at the situation of these people closely," said Major John Prescod of the Peace-Keeping Force. He was referring to NJM members not held in detention. "We have means of identifying persons of the NJM, their Central Committee, and others closely associated with them," Prescod said. From time to time, he added, the force would bring in known NJM activists for questioning on their activities based on intelligence reports, in many cases gathered from ordinary Grenadians.

A contingent of troops and policemen from seven Caribbean nations are helping to restore law and order on Grenada following the October 25 U.S.-led invasion to remove the Army from power, after it had ousted the NJM from office in a bloody coup. The Jamaica-born Major Prescod stated that the Caribbean Peace-Keeping Force was well aware of the potential of the NJM to re-group and pose a threat to the security of the island. "We are aware of re-grouping of this kind but we are looking at them carefully. We have cases of that," he told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

Major Prescod also reported that since the invasion there has been a noticeable increase in the rise of petty crimes in the country. He said within the last five days, up to yesterday, there were 11 reported cases of house-breaking, 3 cases of stealing, as well as 3 cases of bodily harm and damage to property. The law enforcement authorities, he said, are investigating all these crimes.

COURTS TO DEAL WITH AUSTIN, COARD, DETAINEES

FL261936 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 26, CANA -- Grenada's interim government will not hold a public enquiry into last month's bloody military coup and prefers to let the courts deal with the ringleaders, Attorney-General Anthony Rushford said today. Rushford, the British-born legal advisor to the government, said a public probe of the October 19 Army takeover at this time "would prejudice the fair trail of anyone who participated in those events and who may be subject to criminal prosecution." Some 47 people have been detained in Richmond Hill Prison and Rushford said they were under investigation for their role in the coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, three ministers, and several other people died.

Among the detainees are former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, whose power struggle with Bishop set off a chain of events leading to the coup and the U.S.-led invasion six days later.

In Richmond Hill too are General Hudson Austin, who headed the short-lived military junta, and a host of former politicians, soldiers, and supporters of the former New Jewel Movement government. Rushford said it may be difficult to find a jury to give a fair trial to those who might be charged. "When they come to trial the government would have to decide whether they should be tried with a jury or not but, no decision has yet been taken on that."

Rushford said that the findings of the police investigation of the detainees would be passed to the director of public prosecutions, who would then take a decision on what further action should be taken. Justice should take its course, said the ex-officio member of the government. He denied that detainees are being held in Richmond Hill without having been served detention orders. "There is absolutely no truth in these reports," Rushford said. The orders were made on Monday under powers giving the interim administration the right to detain people deemed a threat to national security. Rushford said it did not matter whether the prisoners accepted the orders or not -- "the orders are good."

Acting Chairman of the Interim Administration Nicholas Braithwaite said last week that a decision may be taken on the detainees within a month. "This is an important matter and it would need very careful consideration. So I would say within a month we could take decisions on those people...", he said then. Rushford had also announced earlier that a tribunal would shortly be named to review the cases of those held in detention.

JAMAICA

PNP ON DEVALUATION, CALLS FOR SEAGA RESIGNATION

FL252018 Bridgetown CANA in English 1935 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, November 25, CANA -- The opposition People's National Party (PNP) today rejected Prime Minister and Finance Minister Edward Seaga's assertion that a bit devaluation in the official rate of exchange for the local dollar as part of the unification of the tiered currency exchange system here, will bring only limited price increases.

The PNP, which also called for the resignation of Seaga from the finance portfolio and a parliamentary debate on the economy, said the devaluation would mean a spiral in costs that would hit the Jamaican consumer hard.

Under the devaluation announced by Seaga in Parliament Wednesday night, the U.S. dollar, which at the official rate could have been bought for J1.78 dollars, will now cost J3.15 dollars, though banks have been given a J15 cents operating factor.

The devaluation was in exchange for a U.S. 150 million dollar stand-by facility that Jamaica will take up with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 15 months from January. The facility became necessary when the IMF rejected the basis on which Jamaica computed figures for last September's economic performance test under a U.S. 650 million dollar extended-fund facility which was to expire at the end of March next year.

It was the second time this year Jamaica failed IMF tests under the programme, but in March when it first happened, the fund granted a waiver allowing the programme to continue.

Seaga told Parliament that the expensive parallel exchange market, which had been in operation here since January and through which most transactions took place, had already absorbed the negative impact of price increases for most of the island imports.

The parallel exchange rate from August was trading at J2.96 for the U.S. dollar, a decline in rate in response to government pressure. Seaga admitted that there would be rises in the cost of petroleum products to reflect the difference between the parallel market figure and the new devaluation rate, in electricity, transport, basic food supplies, and foreign debt servicing. [sentence as received] Debt servicing and basic food imports were previously transacted at the official rate of exchange.

The government is to subsidise for the next 15 months the increased cost of basic foods, with consumers having to meet the increase in haulage costs. "Despite the prime minister's assurance that there will only be limited price increases arising from the devaluation, this will not be so," the PNP said. Reminding of the impact on prices when the parallel market was formalised, the PNP added: "The increase in electricity rates and petrol will have far-reaching effects on prices and the cost of living. Consumers will be called on during the next few months to pay more for agricultural products grown by our farmers, housing costs will increase, transportation will rise, household expenditures will go up... to name but a few."

Seaga on October 7 had told ruling party supporters that Jamaica had satisfied all IMF criteria for the previous programme, and he said in Parliament that three days later he was informed by the Central Bank governor that the fund did not accept Jamaica's computation of the figures.

The opposition party noted that despite repeated calls for an explanation, the prime minister had remained silent on the matter, saying he had shown contempt for Jamaicans. "In these circumstances, the only honourable thing would be for the minister of finance to resign," it said. "The People's National Party hereby calls for his resignation." It said too that the prime minister must fully outline all the conditions which the IMF had laid down for the new funding, and called for an opportunity to debate the economy in Parliament. Seaga's Wednesday night statement in Parliament, which was broadcast by radio and television, was done under parliamentary procedures that precluded debate. The PNP called this immoral and cowardly and said that the prime minister had been able to use the house and the electronic media for propaganda purposes.

SEAGA DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT, CALLS ELECTIONS

FL260012 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Edward Seaga, has advised the governor-general to issue a proclamation dissolving Parliament in order to make way for general elections. Here now is a repeat of the prime minister's statement on yesterday's statement by the PNP [People's National Party], and his decision to call the general elections. This announcement was made a few moments ago and broadcast [words indistinct] in a special broadcast. We now repeat this for the benefit of those who did not hear it as broadcast a few moments ago right here on RJR:

[Begin Seaga recording] The grave charge by the opposition People's National Party calling for my resignation, based on allegations that I have deceived the people of Jamaica in regard to the passing of the September IMF (?test), has far reaching implications in relation to [words indistinct] prime minister who deceives the people of Jamaica, particularly in so vital an area as the country's major economic policies, is capable of leading the country through the vital stage of implementing the new economic measures which I have recently (?favored) in Parliament and which are the lifeline to Jamaica's future. [as heard]

At an emergency meeting early this morning, the cabinet agreed that the overriding concern of the country at this time must be continued confidence which the people of Jamaica place in the government and in its prime minister. The fundamental issue that is at stake is one that goes to the very root of the democratic system on which our constitution is based; namely, can the people have the right to be represented by an administration in whom they can place their trust and which they believe will act in good faith at all times, with integrity and in their best interest? I have therefore advised the governor-general to issue a proclamation dissolving Parliament in order to make way for general elections to be held. I will make a full statement to the nation this evening on this matter of grave national importance. [end recording]

Elections Called for 15 December

FL281203 Bridgetown CANA in English 1523 GMT 27 Nov 83

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 27 (CANA) -- Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced general elections would be held here on December 15 and nomination day would be Tuesday. "Tonight I summon the people of the country to decide who has the moral authority (to run the country), "Seaga told thousands of supporters at a rally in Kingston last night. "I challenge the people to challenge those who say we have no authority. Tonight I say that we will find that out on the 15 December."

Seaga, whose conservative Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) won a landslide victory in October October 1980, announced plans to call general elections two years ahead of schedule on Friday. The prime minister said one of the reasons for the holding of elections was an opposition call for his resignation as minister of finance. He said the opposition had accused him of deceiving the people about the outcome of last September's economic performance tests under a 650 million dollar (U.S.) Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Seaga had said on October 7 that Jamaica had met its economic criteria under the programme. But the fund rejected the basis of the government's calculations, precipitating a wrangle between both sides. Seaga said neither side gave way in the dispute, but the old facility, which was to expire next March, was abandoned and a new 180 million dollar (U.S.) stand-by facility for 15 months agreed on.

The new agreement, to be implemented in January, has brought with it a unification of the tiered exchange rate system that was in operation here for ten months and devaluation of the official exchange rate of the Jamaican dollar. The American dollar, which was worth 1.78 Jamaican dollars, is now valued at 3.15 dollars. The local dollar is linked to the U.S. currency.

Seaga said that the formula Jamaica used in the computation of the September tests was the same as had been used in June, when the tests were passed. He disclosed that three days after his statement that Jamaica has passed the tests he found out that the IMF was disputing the calculations. The opposition People's National Party (PNP) contended that by keeping silent on the matter he had shown contempt for the people. "In the circumstances, the only honourable thing would be for the minister of finance to resign," the PNP said Friday.

Prior to last night, Seaga had described the questioning of his integrity and the need for full confidence in the government's leadership to complete the new economic programmes as the chief factors behind his decision to call elections. But at the rally he raised a point that political observers here had raised previously: If returned to power, the government would have significantly more time to push through its policies and for them to show returns. The prime minister, noting that several plans for economic development were either in progress or almost ready for implementation, claimed that the two-year period until the next poll was constitutionally due in 1985 was too short a period and proving a distraction. Everybody was saying that with elections in two years anything can happen...we would have to sit down and wait and you the people would ask for the jobs and the investments," the prime minister said.

Seaga added: "I decided that we are not going to wait. I decided that we want that five years now, because we can't afford to wait." He said that it could only have been destiny that made the opposition at this time call his integrity into question, thus questioning his moral authority to lead the country and giving him the opportunity to go to the people.

The elections would take place with a voters' list already three years old and without the implementation of anti-fraud procedures to which both major parties agreed in a package of electoral reforms in the late 1970's. The parliamentary opposition PNP has repeatedly said in recent months that it would not contest an election based on the old list and before present enumeration with photo-identification was completed. Whether the party will boycott the poll could be decided tonight by the PNP's National Executive Council (NEC), the 200-odd body that is the highest decision-making forum outside the annual congress.

Polls conducted before last month's Grenada invasion in which Jamaica supported the U.S.-led multinational force to oust a military junta showed a swing back in support of the JLP for the first time since mid-1982. But public ratings of the Seaga government's performance in office has been low, said independent pollster Carl Stone. A poll published today indicated that Labour Party support in late October was 57.7 percent compared with the PNP's 46.6 percent. The Marxist-Leninist Worker's Party of Jamaica (WPJ) had a 0.7 percent support.

"The local impact on the events in heating up the issue of anti-communism has generated a five percent swing to the JLP..." Stone said. He added: "The public's rating of the JLP's overall performance remains low and the party continues to have a negative image associated with favouring the rich, laying off workers in hard times, failure to provide jobs (etc)...Nevertheless, fears about communism, anxieties about the PNP's continued ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union, and fears about the possible threats to democracy that could be caused by the PNP leftist connections have all reduced substantially the proportion of 1980 JLP voters which (the) last two polls had shown as having moved back to the PNP out of disillusionment with the JLP's economic performance."

Stone said that the PNP continued to enjoy a comfortable lead over the JLP among new voters who have not been affected by the communism issue. But it said that with the old voters list still in use many young people who turned 18 years old in 1981, 1982, and this year would not be able to cast a ballot. Seaga has said that there was a crisis that had to be settled now, and that it could not wait until the new list and identification procedure were ready. He said: I would be prepared in six months.

The prime minister has called for a peaceful campaign and a model election. In an apparent reference to the uncertain PNP position, he said: "Right now I don't know who is going to contest (the election)." But he added: "Let it be an election of stability....let it be contested from the platform and let us show that we can settle our differences peacefully."

The prime minister also signalled that he intended to make ideology one of the central themes in his party's campaign, and a significant portion of his address last night was taken up with the Grenada affair and what he said were parallels in Jamaica during the 1970's at the time of the Democratic Socialist PNP's administration. The final statement to his supporters was: "No Cubans for Christmas."